For operation with
Pro Tools® Version 4.0, 5, and 6 Session Files

User's Manual

For Titan™ Version 3.1.0

Manual Version 3.1.0
© 1997-2005 Synchro Arts Limited

Synchro Arts Limited
13 Links Road
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 3PP
UK
Tel: +44-(0) 1372 811934
Fax: +44-(0) 1372 817976

E-mail: info@SynchroArts.com
Web site: www.SynchroArts.com

Titan is a trademark of Synchro Arts Limited.
Digidesign and Pro Tools are registered trademarks of Digidesign, a division of Avid Technology, Inc.
All other trademarks are the property of their respective holders.

Synchro Arts Limited End User License Agreement

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING LEGAL AGREEMENT CAREFULLY PRIOR TO USING THE Titan SOFTWARE PROVIDED WITH THIS AGREEMENT. USE OF THE SOFTWARE CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS OF THIS LICENSE. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS LICENSE, PROMPTLY RETURN THE UNUSED SOFTWARE, MANUALS, AND ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS TO THE LOCATION FROM WHICH THEY WERE OBTAINED FOR A REFUND.

1. License. The application, demonstration and other software and audio accompanying this License, whether on disk, in memory or on any other media (the "Software") and the related documentation are licensed to you by Synchro Arts Limited. You may use the Software on a single computer, make one copy of the Software for backup purposes only and physically transfer the Software from one computer to another provided that all copies of the Software are removed from the machine from which it is being transferred and the Software is only used on one computer at a time. You may also transfer all your license rights in the Software, the backup copy of the Software, the related documentation and a copy of this License to another party, provided the other party reads and agrees to accept the terms and conditions of this License.

2. Copy and use restrictions. You are not allowed to distribute copies of the Software or the documentation. This Software is protected by the copyright laws that pertain to computer software. It is illegal to make copies of the Software, except for backups. It is illegal to give copies to another person, or to duplicate the Software by any other means, including electronic transmission. The Software contains trade secrets and in order to protect them you may not decompile, reverse engineer, disassemble or otherwise reduce the software to human-perceivable form. You may not modify, adapt, translate, rent, lease or create derivative works based upon the Software or any part thereof. You may not provide use of the Software in a network, time-sharing, multiple CPU or multiple user arrangement. You may not electronically transmit the Software from one computer to another. You acknowledge that no title to the intellectual property in the Software is transferred to you and that title and full ownership rights to the Software will remain the exclusive property of Synchro Arts Limited or its suppliers and licensors.

3. Termination. This License is effective until terminated. You may terminate this License at any time by destroying the Software, related documentation and all copies thereof. This License will terminate immediately without notice

from Synchro Arts Limited if you fail to comply with any provision of this License. Upon termination you must destroy the Software, related documentation and copies thereof.

4. Limited Warranty. Synchro Arts Limited warrants that the original disk or disks on which the Software is recorded are free from defects in materials and workmanship, assuming normal use, for a period of ninety (90) days from date of purchase. If a defect occurs during this period, you may return your faulty disk to Synchro Arts Limited along with a dated proof of purchase and Synchro Arts Limited will replace it free of charge. This limited warranty is void if failure of the Software has resulted from accident, abuse or misapplication. Any replacement Software will be warranted for the remainder of the original warranty period. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary by jurisdiction.

5. No Other Warranties. EXCEPT FOR THE EXPRESS WARRANTY OF THE ORIGINAL DISKS SET FORTH ABOVE, SYNCHRO ARTS LIMITED GRANTS NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, BY STATUTE OR OTHERWISE, REGARDING THE DISKS AND RELATED MATERIALS, THEIR FITNESS FOR ANY PURPOSE, THEIR QUALITY, THEIR MERCHANTABILITY OR OTHERWISE.

THE LIABILITY OF SYNCHRO ARTS LIMITED UNDER THE WARRANTY SET FORTH ABOVE SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE AMOUNT PAID BY THE CUSTOMER FOR THE PRODUCT. IN NO EVENT SHALL SYNCHRO ARTS LIMITED, DIGIDESIGN OR AVID TECHNOLOGY BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR OTHER DAMAGES FOR BREACH OF WARRANTY.

6. Severability. In the event any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it shall be adjusted so as to best reflect the intent of the parties to the maximum extent possible, and the remainder of this agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the maximum extent possible.

7. Entire Agreement. This Agreement is the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and replaces any previous discussion and/or agreement regarding such subject matter.

8. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with English law and the English courts shall have jurisdiction to determine any dispute.

SYNCHRO ARTS LIMITED END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT 3

GETTING STARTED 7

Important Information **7**
Titan User Manual and Tutorials 7
Contents of the Titan Installer CD 7

What's New **7**
Version 3.1 7
Version 3.0 8

Special Thanks to: **10**

ABOUT TITAN 11

Fix Sync **11**

Flash Cutter **11**
EDL Difference 11
Cut and Move Mode (Re-conform) 11
Cut only mode (Conform) 12

Flash Conform **12**

INSTALLATION AND AUTHORIZATION 13

Overview **13**
System Requirements 13

Installation **13**
Open Titan installer 13
What is installed so far and where 14
Starting Titan 14
Install Titan Examples 14

Authorization **15**
Unlocking the Software 15
Deactivation of your License 17

USING TITAN..... 18

Help **19**

Fix Sync **19**
About Fix Sync 19
Using Fix Sync 22

Flash Cutter **38**
About Flash Cutter 38

Flash Cutter: Cut Only Mode **39**
About Cut Only Mode 39
Using Cut Only Mode 40

Flash Cutter: Cut & Move Mode **54**
About Cut & Move Mode 54
Using Cut and Move Mode 54

Flash Conform **56**
About Flash Conform 56
Using Flash Conform 58

TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE..... 71

Fix Sync Problems **71**

Flash Cutter Problems **71**

Flash Conform Problems **72**

Getting Started

Thank you using Synchro Arts Titan™, for processing Pro Tools® session files. This User Manual accompanies the Titan software.

Important Information

Titan User Manual and Tutorials

Tutorials come with this User Manual that will guide you step-by-step through the operation of Titan. The tutorials use audio examples and Pro Tools session files that are included with your installed software. To get the quickest start with Titan, it is highly recommended you follow the Tutorials.

Contents of the Titan Installer CD

The **Titan installer** will install the Titan application software, a User Manual and read me file with the latest information. The **Titan Examples Installer** will install the tutorial, Pro Tools sessions with example audio, and EDL's. A second Tutorial can be found in the "Flash Conform and Cutter Tutorial" folder.

What's New

Version 3.1

The following changes have been made to Titan since Version 3.1

General

Works with all versions of Pro Tools from 4.0 to 6.9

Flash Conform

1. New rules allow better control over broadcast wave meta data.
2. Supports iXML
3. Can extract reel ID's from EDL clip name fields
4. Support for reel ID's to be attached to source folders.
5. Can now use folder names for reel ID's. Allows groups of files that do not contain a reel ID to be identified by the name of the folder that contains the files.

6. Automatic Track layout – used when source files contain no track information. Each conformed file will be placed on a separate track.
7. Midnight mode added - when enabled if a file regions pass midnight, Conform will process the section pass midnight as starting at 0 hours.
8. Can copy all audio conformed audio to a selected directory. Audio can be shorted to include only the conformed regions plus a user selected handle.
9. Can conform audio with mixed bit depth and sample rates – Conformed audio will be converted to the selected session sample rate.
10. Regions names are now written in AES31 sessions.

Fix Sync

1. A number of errors have been fixed.
2. Will process multi channel Pro Tools tracks.

Flash Cutter

1. Will cut aux and master fader tracks
2. EDL Differencing - Can compare two EDLS to create a Flash Cutter EDL and a re-conform EDL.

Version 3.0

The following changes have been made to Titan since Version 2.6.

General

1. New-look user interface incorporating step-by-step operation and integral help window, designed to make Titan more user-friendly.

2. Fully compatible with OS X and OS 9. Older versions of Mac OS are no longer supported.

Flash Conform

1. Full support for multi-channel conforming. Unlimited number of audio channels for each EDL track.

2. Support for multi-channel and interleaved Wave, Broadcast Wave and SDII files.

3. Flexible file name recognition– allows support for a wide range of file naming schemas.

4. Supports Reel and Channel Meta-data in Broadcast Wave files

5. Support for custom name recognition modules, to meet individual situations.

6. Audio source file diagnostics and correction.

7. Outputs Pro Tool 4.0, Pro Tools 5.1 and AES31 Sessions. Titan's AES31 output is verified compatible with Steinberg Nuendo and AMS Neve AudioFile systems.

8. Support for multiple EDLs in a single conform operation.

9. Features EDL track offset, track disable and duplicate event removal.

10. Can import files from multiple folders and volumes.

11. Support for spanning output audio files across multiple volumes. As one volume becomes full, Titan will automatically use the next specified volume.

12. Supports conforming from source audio where regions have been broken into multiple files.

Fix Sync

1. Fix Sync now supports multi-channel audio.

2. Complex alignment tasks are achievable by the use of alignment groups:

3. Each group consists of a work track that is the sync reference for the alignment group.

4. Any number of tracks may be assigned to an alignment group. The top most align track is used as the master for the alignment, the remaining tracks are slaved to the master track.

5. If an alignment cannot be found for the master track, the next alignment track will be used as the master; this is repeated until a match can be found.

6. If a region in a slave track does not match the master, it will be aligned independently of the master

7. Fix Sync now only performs audio move. (If you used the move region mode please contact us)

Flash Cutter

1. Supports a wide range of Pro Tools session formats from Pro Tools 4.0 through to **6.0** session formats.

2. Support for multi-channel tracks and automation editing.

3. New option to leave original audio in the cut tracks.

4. Allows a time offset to be applied to source time code values.

Special Thanks to:

Digidesign staff for their continued support. Thanks also to Kali Peacock and Steve Cooke for providing the voices in the demonstration audio.

Also thanks to the many beta testers for their helpful suggestions, bug reports and test data during development and beta testing.

About Titan

is a stand-alone program that can save hours and even days of editing Pro Tools session files by providing four automatic editing functions:

Fix Sync

Titan's Fix Sync function automatically adjusts the position of manually or auto-conformed audio regions to sync precisely to a work track. Similarly the Fix Sync function can correct the sync of audio that has passed through signal processing devices and has been delayed by unknown amounts.

Fix Sync virtually eliminates the need to adjust sync manually while listening for phasing or visually comparing waveforms with a worktrack.

• Automatically corrects the position of audio that is out of sync by up to +/- 2.0 seconds to sample level accuracy.

• Hundreds of regions are corrected in minutes.

• Multi-channel Regions can be adjusted together to maintain phase relationship.

• Optional report indicates magnitude of errors, detection of signal inversion (180º phase shifts) and amount of shifting done.

Flash Cutter

EDL Difference

Given the original EDL used to conform a session and a new EDL from the video editor, Titan can compare the two EDL's to generate cutter and re-conform EDLs. The Cutter EDL can be used to re-cut a session and the Re-conform EDL can be used to conform new audio into a working session. A tutorial on the use the this function can be found in the "Flash Conform and Cutter Tutorial" located on the Titan CD and on the Synchro Arts web site.

Cut and Move Mode (Re-conform)

This addition to Flash Cutter allows user-selected tracks in a Pro Tools Session to be Cut into sections defined by EDL events source In/Out times which can be moved to new positions with starting points defined by each

EDL events' record (or destination) In time. This allows blocks of audio to be repositioned instantly and automatically.

• Each Cut (and move) event in the EDL can operate on multiple regions, fades and tracks at the same time.

Cut only mode (Conform)

Flash Cutter, avoids having manually to re-cut and rename edits in situations when tape is used to transfer audio from any editing system to a Pro Tools system, and an OMF transfer is not a practical option. Once the audio on tape has been transferred into continuous tracks in a Pro Tools session and correctly positioned, Flash Cutter uses a standard EDL from the first editing system to automatically re-cut the tracks and rename the audio regions.

• Automatically cuts and names several hundred edits in seconds.

• Simple assignment of EDL channels to Session Tracks.

• Regions, Tracks and Sessions are automatically named from EDL and user-supplied information.

Flash Conform

Flash Conform enables Pro Tools post-production editors to auto conform in minutes rather than hours. In this approach using Flash Conform, the auto conform process is typically performed in two steps. Firstly using any of the loading methods that will be described later, the selected source audio takes are loaded into audio files on a hard disk, given timestamps and appropriate names. Secondly, Flash Conform is run, taking editing instructions from a CMX3600-format Edit Decision List (EDL). Flash Conform automatically locates the specified audio and then places the correctly positioned audio edits into a new Pro Tools session.

Using Flash Conform provides a number of benefits: - besides conforming hundreds of edits in seconds, it does not require any user intervention to select or link files; also, the resulting session contains audio regions which the editor can extend as required up to the limits of the recorded "handles". Other features of Flash Conform are that automatically it can: - determine the correct layout for mapping EDL channels to Session tracks, even with mono and multi-channel files; name the new regions; and generate reports identifying any problem events

Installation and Authorization

Overview

In this section we finish the installation and explain how the authorizations for the Licensed and Demonstration versions of Titan operate. The user must be aware of which version they are using and follow these instructions carefully.

System Requirements

- Macintosh Power PC, G3, G4, or G5
- System 9.0 Software or higher
- 4 Mbytes hard disk space

Installation

Open Titan installer

To install Titan, if you have not done so, first close all other applications.

- If installing from a CD, insert the Titan CD into your disk drive and, if necessary, open the CD disk icon.
- If installing from a downloaded version, locate the Titan Installer Icon.

- Double click on the Titan Installer icon.
- Follow the instructions that will appear.

If you have difficulties please check www.synchroarts.com/support for the latest support information.

What is installed so far and where

- The software has been largely installed by its own self-running installer, but you must carry out a few remaining steps to complete installation.
- The Titan Folder contains the following folders and files:

Read Me -	A Text File with up to date information on features and any problems and fixes.
Titan3	Application Program (for Power PC's only)
Titan User Manual	This document, including Tutorials
Scan Control	This folder contains files that control how Flash Conform identifies files.

Starting Titan

Titan is started by double clicking the Titan3 icon.

Install Titan Examples

To install the Titan examples if you have not done so, first close all other applications.

- If installing from a CD, insert the Titan CD into your disk drive and, if necessary, open the CD disk icon.
- If installing from a downloaded version, locate the Titan Examples Installer Icon.

- Double click on the Titan Examples Installer icon.
- Follow the instructions that will appear.

If you have difficulties please check www.synchroarts.com/support for the latest support information.

Authorization

Once installed, Titan will initially run in a time-limited **trial** mode. Once your trial period is over, you will need to purchase the Titan software in order to **unlock** for its continued use on your computer. If you have already purchased the software, you can unlock it at any time, ready for fully functioning use.

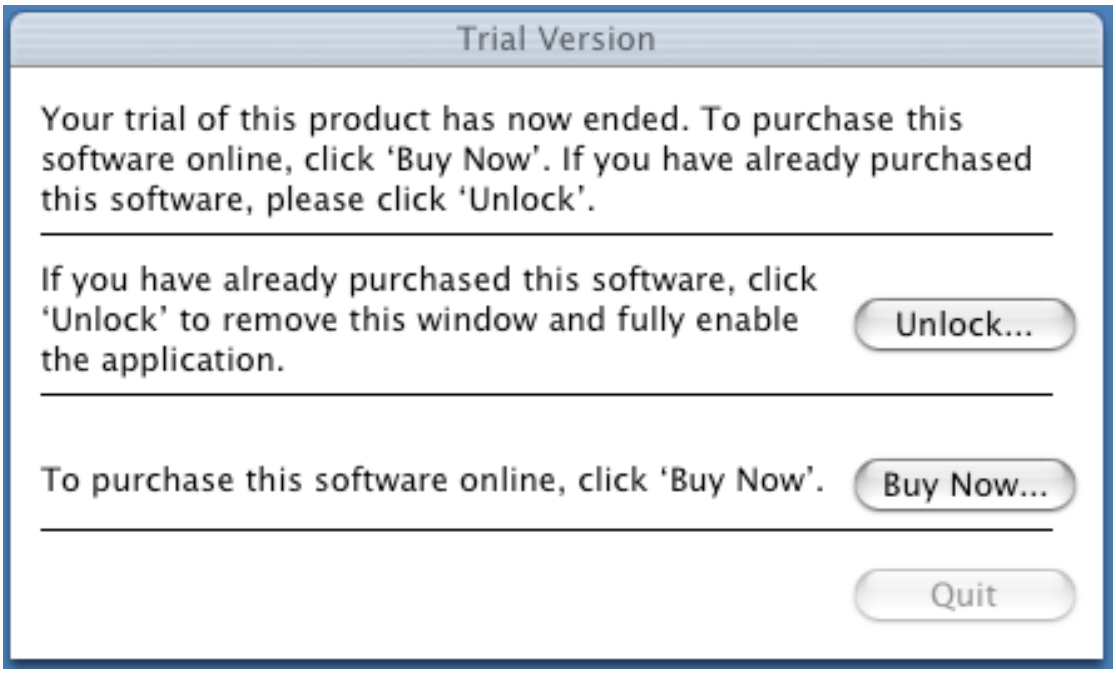
Unlocking the Software

When you purchase software from Synchro Arts you will be supplied with a unique code called a **Product Key**. This Product Key is used to start the unlocking process on you computer.

You cannot use the same Product Key to unlock the software on more than one computer.

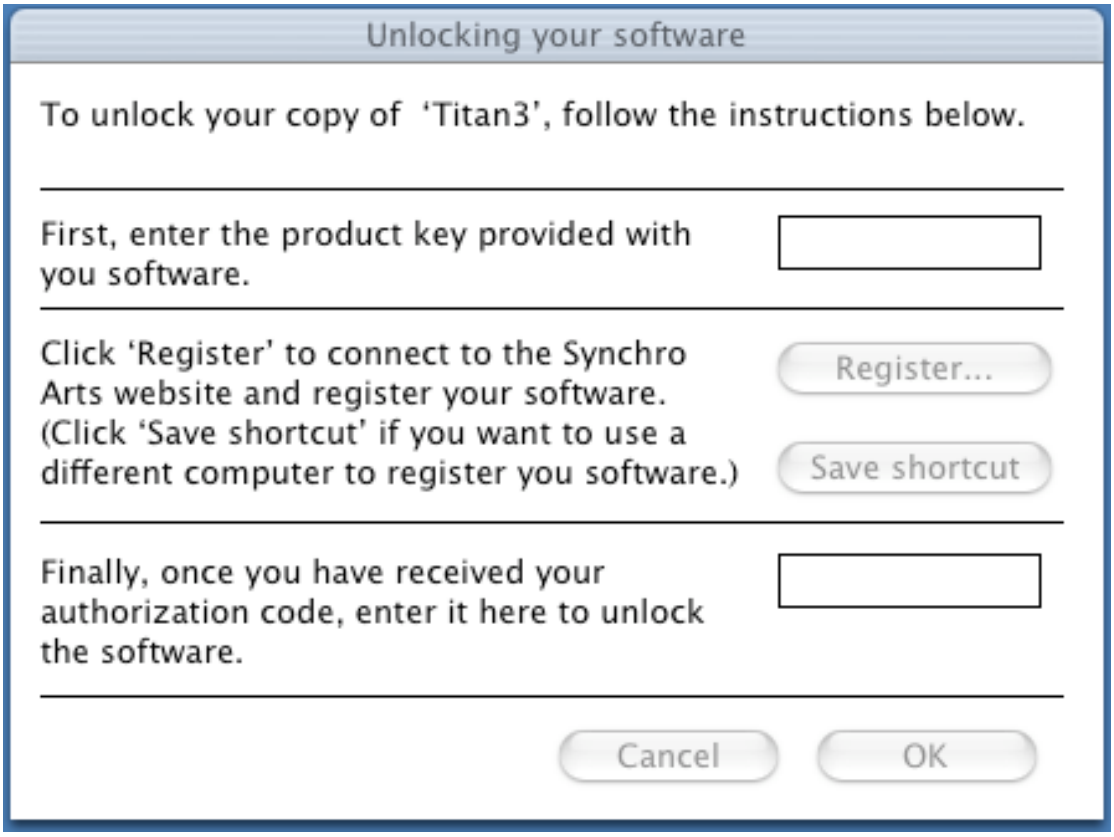
To unlock the software you will need an Internet connection, either on the computer on which you wish to run Titan, or via a remote computer.

When the trial periods end the program will display the following dialog


Trial Version
Your trial of this product has now ended. To purchase this software online, click 'Buy Now'. If you have already purchased this software, please click 'Unlock'.
If you have already purchased this software, click 'Unlock' to remove this window and fully enable the application.
Unlock...
To purchase this software online, click 'Buy Now'.
Buy Now...
Quit

If you have already purchased Titan select **Unlock…** if you which to purchase Titan select **Buy Now…**

If you the select **Unlock…** the following dialog will be displayed

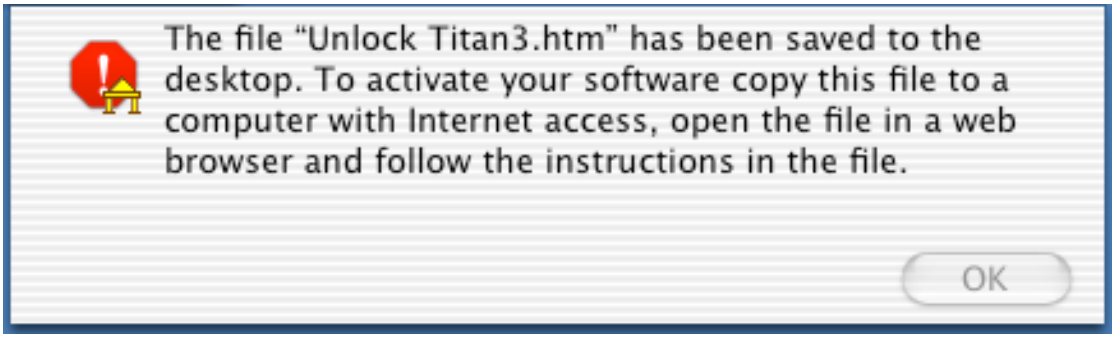

Unlocking your software
To unlock your copy of 'Titan3', follow the instructions below.
First, enter the product key provided with you software.
Click 'Register' to connect to the Synchro Arts website and register your software. (Click 'Save shortcut' if you want to use a different computer to register you software.)
Register...
Save shortcut
Finally, once you have received your authorization code, enter it here to unlock the software.
Cancel
OK

Enter your Product Key. You Product key is an eleven digit string which will start TR30

If your computer is attached to the Internet select **Register** you will then be taken to a web page which will ask for your registration details. When you fill in this form an email will be sent to the email address you supply. It may take up to 1 hour for this email to arrive. If you do not receive the email after 1 hour contact Synchro Arts.

When you receive the email it will contain an authorisation code. If you have closed Titan you need to restart Titan then select **Unlock** to display this dialog again. You can then enter the authorization code into the lower edit field then select **OK.** If the authorisation code is correct Titan will then start. Once an authorisation code has successfully authorised Titan the authorisation code cannot be used again. (Make sure that you do not confuse letters with numbers in the authorisation code.) The Product key can be used to generate new authorisation codes if the software has been de-activated.

If you computer is not attached to the Internet you need to select **Save Shortcut**, the following message will be displayed.


The file “Unlock Titan3.htm” has been saved to the desktop. To activate your software copy this file to a computer with Internet access, open the file in a web browser and follow the instructions in the file.
OK

Locate the file **Unlock Titan3.htm** on your desktop and move the file to a computer with an Internet connection (The computer can be using any operating system which supports web browsing). Open the file in a web browser and select the **Unlock Titan3** link. A web page will then be displayed which will ask for you registration details – then follow the instructions above.

If you do not have any Internet connections open the **Unlock Titan3.htm** file in a web browser (you do not need an Internet connection to open the file) and follow the instructions in the file.

Deactivation of your License

You can move your Product Key between computers by **deactivating** the license.

It is important that you deactivate your license before:
- Removing the software from your computer.
- Upgrading or re-installing your computer's operating system.

To deactivate the license you will need an Internet connection, either on the computer on which you wish to run Titan, or via a remote computer.

If access to an Internet connection is not possible, please contact Synchro Arts Limited during business hours: 1000-1800 GMT.

To start deactivation, select the “About Titan…” menu then click “Deactivate…” and follow the on-screen instructions.

This will then allow you to use your Product Key to unlock the software on another computer.

It is important to keep your Product Key safe as it may be needed if you upgrade your computer or wish to move the software to another computer.

Do not allow any one else to use you Product Key, as this will prevent you from using your software.

Using Titan

The Titan software contains three separate audio processing functions:

1. Fix Sync

2. Flash Cutter

3. Flash Conform

Each of these processes has it's own control window. The use of each process will be described separately in the following chapters.

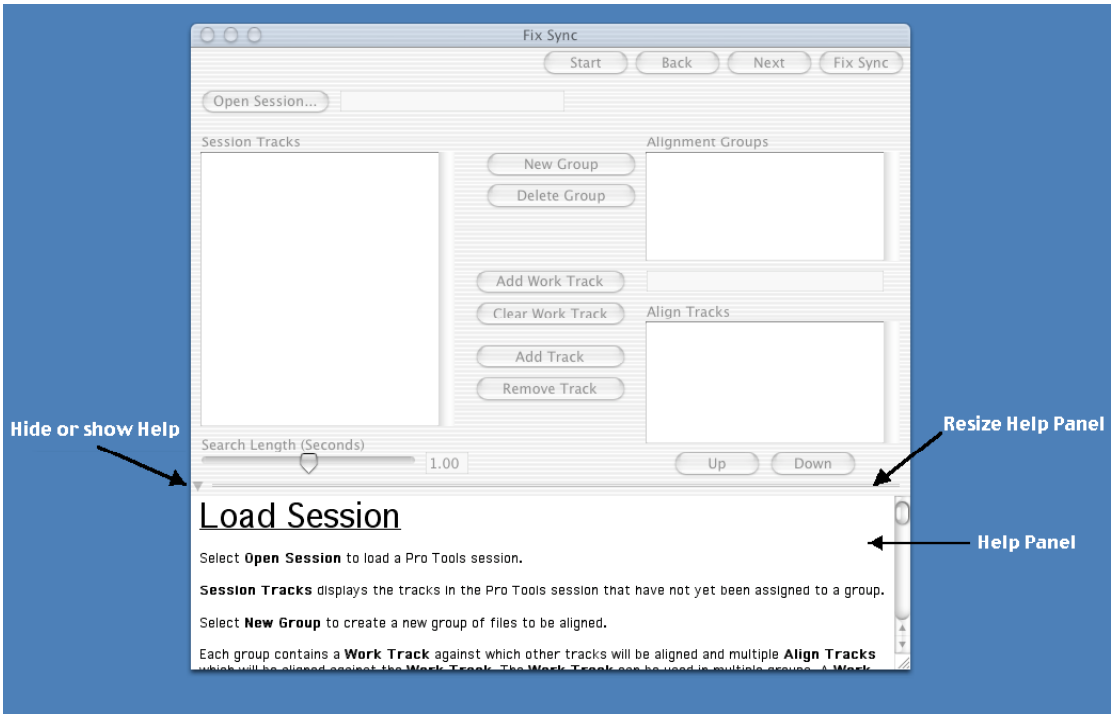
Does Titan require Pro Tools to function?

Although Pro Tools is not required for Titan to perform it’s processing, it is helpful to have Pro Tools software available in order to examine and compare the sessions before and after processing.

In this manual, it will be assumed that the user is familiar with the operation of Pro Tools software.

Help

Each window in Titan has a help panel at the bottom of the screen. This panel contains detailed information about the controls and options in the current window.



This manual does not contain a description of all of Titans controls; look at this help panel for detailed descriptions of the controls.

Fix Sync

About Fix Sync

Overview

The Fix Sync function provides a fast, efficient and automatic means of tightening up the timing accuracy of the conformed audio in a Pro Tools session file.

Operation is straightforward and quick: - The user selects the conformed Pro Tools session and indicates to Titan which tracks are the work tracks and which are the conformed or new tracks. Note that Titan can only work with Pro Tools sessions in which both the work track(s) and the conformed audio are present.

Why use Fix Sync?

In video and film post-production, autoconforming is often used to create automatically a "session file" on a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) containing recordings of selected takes from "source tapes" generally recorded at the time of the picture shoot. The recordings or audio segments will be placed in destination tracks at time codes specified by an EDL. These selected takes will usually be similar to, but not necessarily exactly the same as, the "work track" which we will sometimes refer to as the Guide track.

These conformed re-recordings are made for a number of reasons:

- The work-track sound may be transferred from 3/4" video and be of poorer quality
- The work-track may have been through several generations and be noisy
- The editor might wish to use a close- or far- miked alternative recordings
- The editor might wish to change the start or stop of the audio cut as well as add "handles" for further adjustments

For a number of reasons, however, the resulting conformed audio segments may not be in absolute sync with the work track audio and can often be 1 or 2 frames out. In some cases, where there has been broken time code or other problems, the sync can be over a second out. Therefore, many editors use the DAW environment to check each new segment for sync and either use the waveforms to align a segment visually with the work track waveform (if recorded) or play the two signals together until they are in sync to the sound editor's satisfaction. If the work track was not recorded in the DAW, it can be monitored off the tape containing it and the picture while the DAW session playback is run in chase lock with the tape transport.

This sync checking is a time consuming process and, depending on the number of regions, may take up to a day or more per 10 or 20-minute sound reel. While it may not be difficult to sync them by ear if the two waveforms are nearly identical, it can be more difficult if the work track has become noisy or a different mike position is used for perspective changes. In any case, the process takes a considerable amount of time.

In other situations, manual placement of original audio in rough alignment to a work track is also performed. We will refer to the results of both the automatic and manual placement of these regions as **conformed audio**.

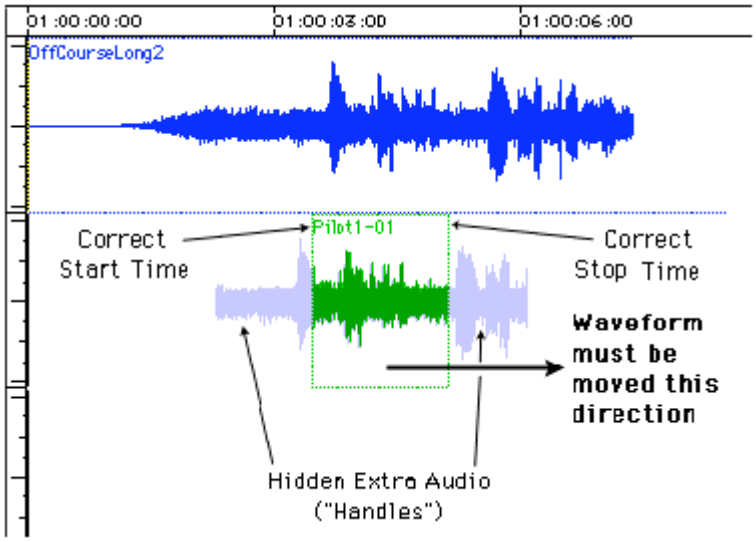
What type of sync errors can result from autoconforming?

After autoconform is performed the Start and End position of a region are correct, but the audio within this timecode "window" is can become shifted out of place. This type of correction requires that there is sufficient audio

available outside of the original region, known as ‘handles’, to make this correction.

This is illustrated in the figure below. The Region in Track 2 named Pilot1-01 has the correct Start and Stop timecode, but the audio content is wrong. The light coloured audio shown before and after this region is part of the same file, so it is available, but not visible in the Pro Tools display.

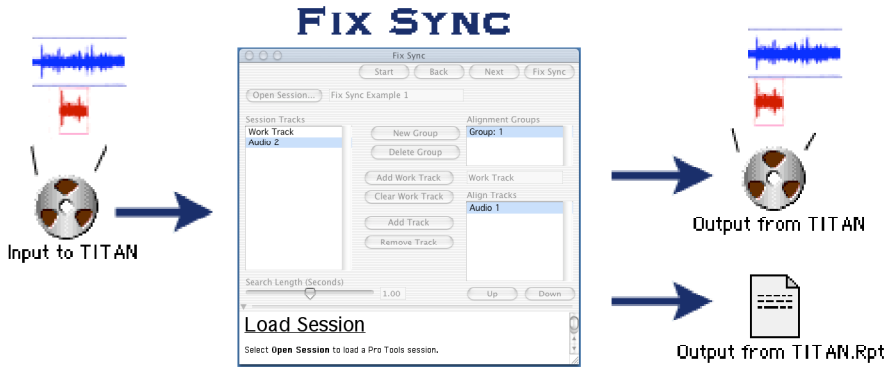
To correct this error, the audio needs to be shifted, moving new audio into the "window" at one end and some of the old audio in the region out of the other, while keeping the start and stop timecode the same.



What happens during the Fix Sync process?

Once started, Titan compares each conformed audio region with the work track, and determines if the region’s audio needs to be shifted in time to improve sync. In general, no new audio will be created (so no further audio disk space is taken). Only new or modified session information will be produced. A report will be generated which contains Titan's settings and the action taken on each region.

The processing input and output for the Fix Sync function is illustrated below.



It is very important to recognize that for Titan to work the conformed audio must be nearly identical to a section of audio in the work track, apart from minor variations in level and noise. (Note: The work track and audio regions do not have to start and end at the same time codes.)

(In cases where this similarity does not exist, it might be necessary use "VocALign", an automatic audio alignment process, also from Synchro Arts, which will cope with more major differences in the audio content and determine a timing adjustment to within 1/4 frame.)

Using Fix Sync

Overview

1. **Prepare a Pro Tools Session** so that it contains conformed tracks, and work tracks to sync the conformed tracks to (this does not use Titan).

2. **Start Titan** and open a new Fix Sync processing window.

3. **Open the prepared session**, by clicking Open Session.

4. Create an alignment group and **assign a work track** from the open session that will be used as the reference for the Fix Sync operation.

5. **Add the tracks to be aligned** to the alignment group. Once started, Fix Sync will attempt to align these tracks to the Work Track.

6. **Select the Search Length** of the Fix Sync process.

7. **Choose the output session name**, and select any region auto-naming options you require.

8. **Start the Fix Sync processing**. The output session will be created with the Conform Tracks, aligned to the Work Track.

9. **Review and save the report** generated by the Fix Sync operation.

10. **Check the results** by loading the output session into Pro Tools.

How do I prepare a Pro Tools session for use with Fix Sync?

Although Fix Sync can operate with standard Pro Tools session files, you must prepare the sessions for use with Fix Sync before processing can begin. The session you wish to use with Fix Sync should have at least two tracks of audio:

1. There must be one or more audio tracks that we will call **Work Tracks**.

   Work Tracks generally containing long and continuous regions in which audio is exactly at the correct timecode position. These tracks are typically recorded from the editors' final output and are in exact sync with a picture (or other audio). There can be more than one region in a work track.

2. There must be one or more other audio tracks that we will call **Conformed Tracks.**

   Conformed Tracks contain the results of manual or auto-conforming and thus contain many regions which are meant to be, but are not necessarily, in sync with corresponding (nearly identical) audio in the Work Tracks.

What handle length does Fix Sync need to process sessions?

Users of Titan must ensure during the Autoconforming process, that start and end handles longer than the maximum expected sync error are recorded with each conformed region. This ensures that the Fix Sync function can make the correction required without running out of audio.

What is the minimum region duration that Fix Sync will process?

Conformed regions of duration less than 0.2 seconds will not be processed.

Titan will generate a special message in the Report file indicating where such instances have occurred.

Where is the Fix Sync Move Region mode from Titan version 2.6?

The Move Region mode has been removed in Titan version 3.0. If you require the Move Region mode please contact Synchro Arts.

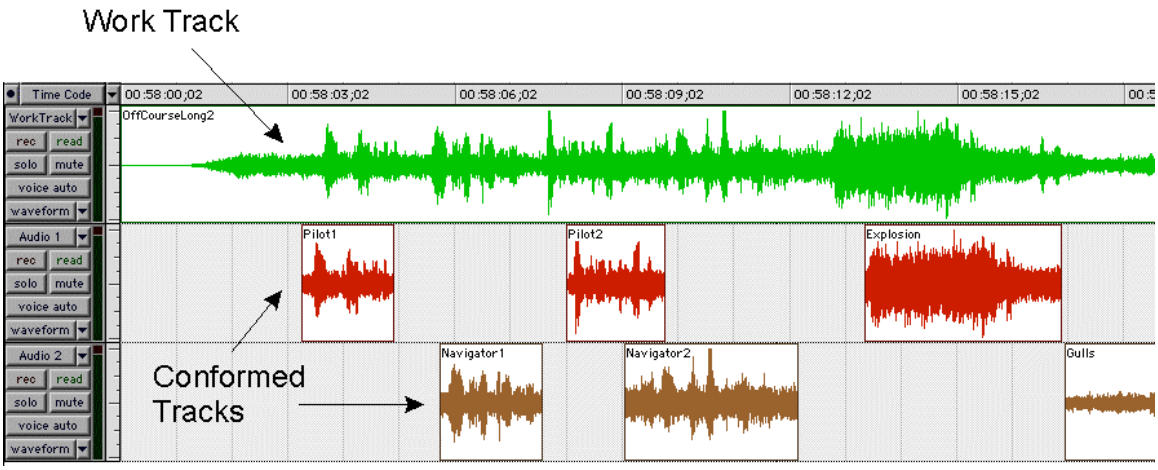
Tutorial

This tutorial will guide you through using Fix Sync to process the example session. You may also wish to follow this tutorial and substitute your own session file in place of the example one. The example files needed for this tutorial are included in the Titan Examples Installer. If you have not installed the Titan Examples, refer to Install Titan Examples in the section Install Titan Examples

1. Prepare a Pro Tools session for Fix Sync

If you are using the example session for this tutorial, you will not have to prepare a session to try out Fix Sync. We recommend you use this example session first.

The contents of the example session Fix Sync Example 1 is shown below. The session contains three tracks of audio, two of which will be the conform tracks, and one will be the work track.



When preparing your own sessions, there can be any number of Work Tracks and any number of Conformed Tracks up to the maximum total allowable in a Pro Tools Session.

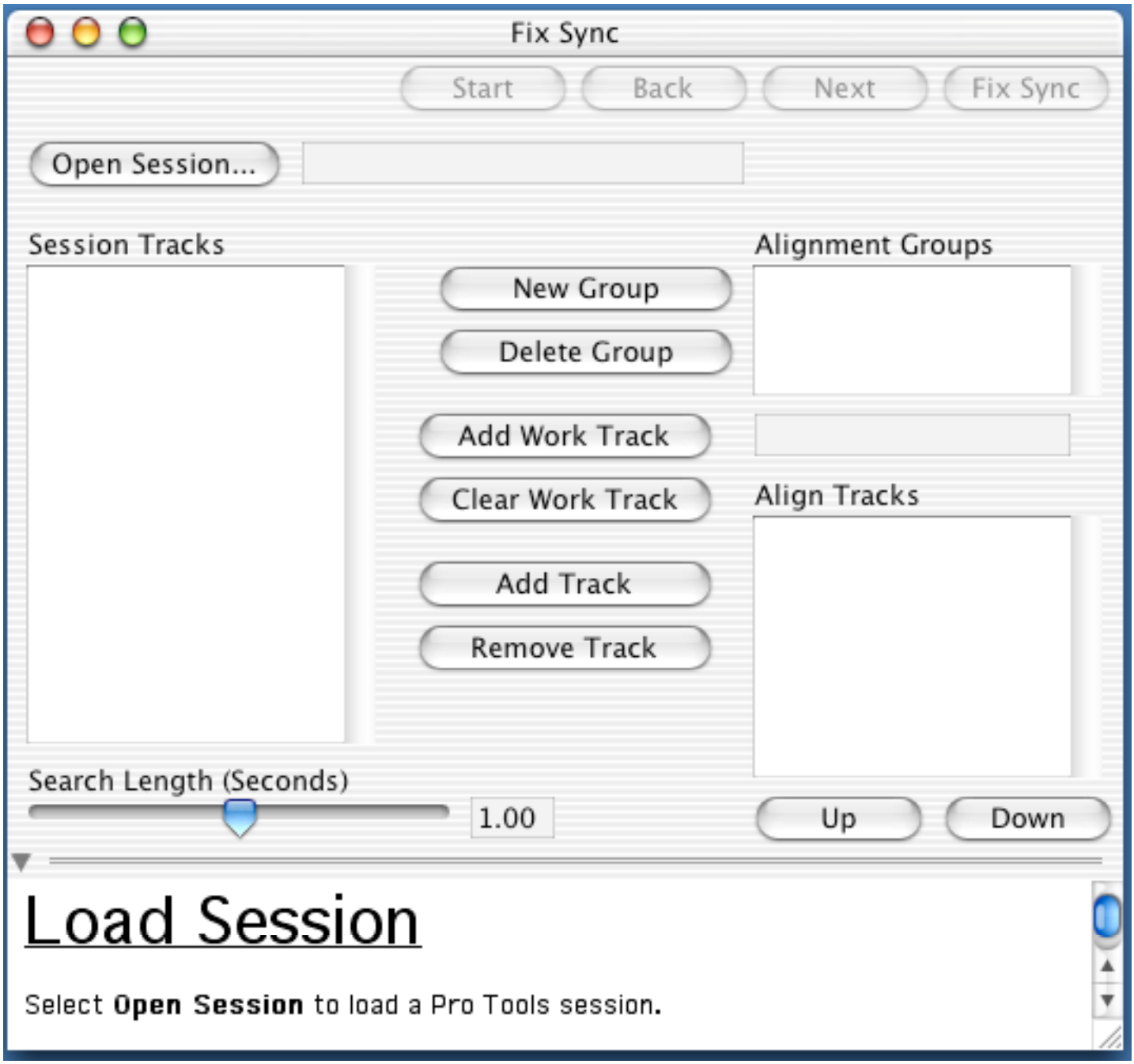
2. Start Titan and open a new Fix Sync window

⇒ Start Titan if it isn't running by double clicking on the Titan icon.

⇒ If Titan is running, on the **File** menu, click **New Fix Sync**, to open a new Fix Sync processing window.

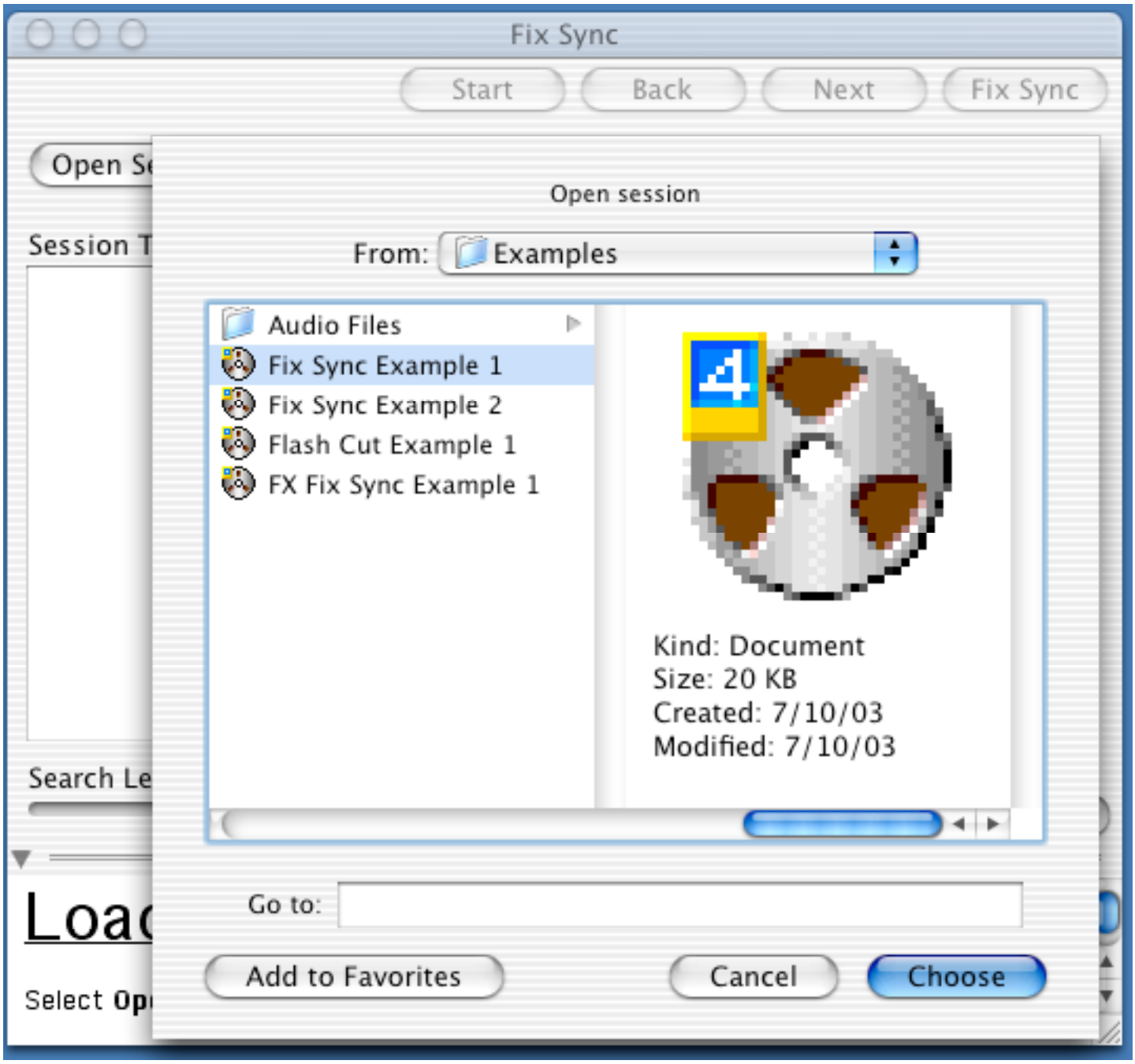
3. Open the prepared Pro Tools session

Once a new Fix Sync window is opened, you must open the prepared session that you are going to process. The Fix Sync windows will initially look like this:



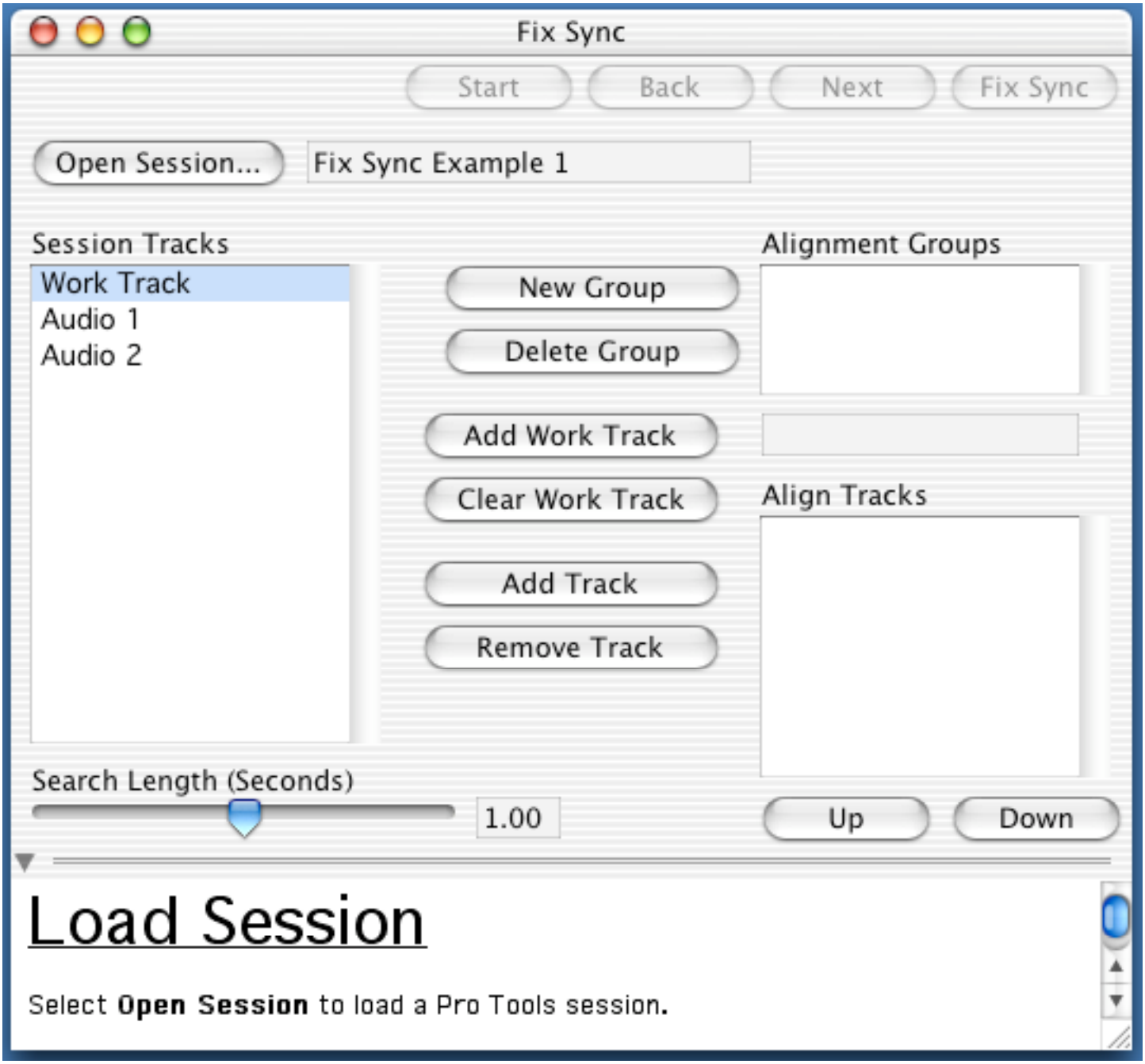
To open the session:

⇒ In **the Fix Sync** window, click **Open Session.** The Open Session window will appear:



⇒ Locate the session file you wish to open. For the example, locate the Titan Examples folder, click **Fix Sync Example 1**, and the click **Choose**.

The Open Session window will now close. The name of the session you chose will now be displayed in the Fix Sync window. All of the session's track names will now be displayed in the list headed Session Tracks.



In this example Work Track is the name of our work track that we wish all other audio tracks to be in sync with. Audio 1 and Audio 2 are mono tracks that are nearly in sync with Work Track but are not tight enough to be used without some timing adjustment.

We will now use Fix Sync to perform the adjustment automatically.

4. Create a new alignment group

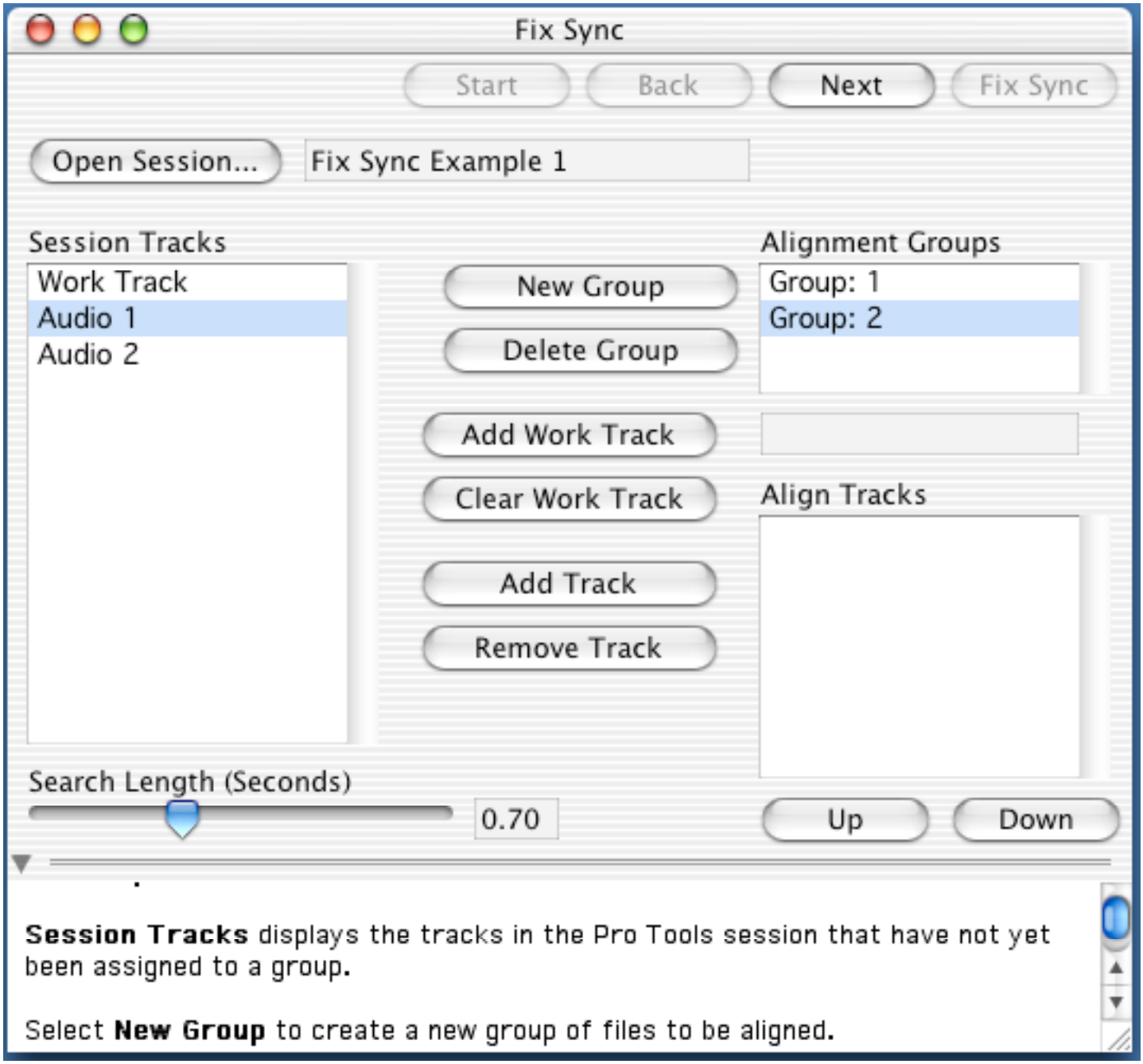
Once the session has been opened, a new alignment group must be created.

For the tutorial we need two alignment groups since we wish to fix the sync of our two mono audio tracks independently of each other.

⇒ Press **New Group** twice to create two alignment groups.

For your own sessions you may need a different number alignment groups. The integral help window in Titan explains the use of groups in detail.

If you are following the example, the Fix Sync window will now look like this:



5. Assign a work track to each group

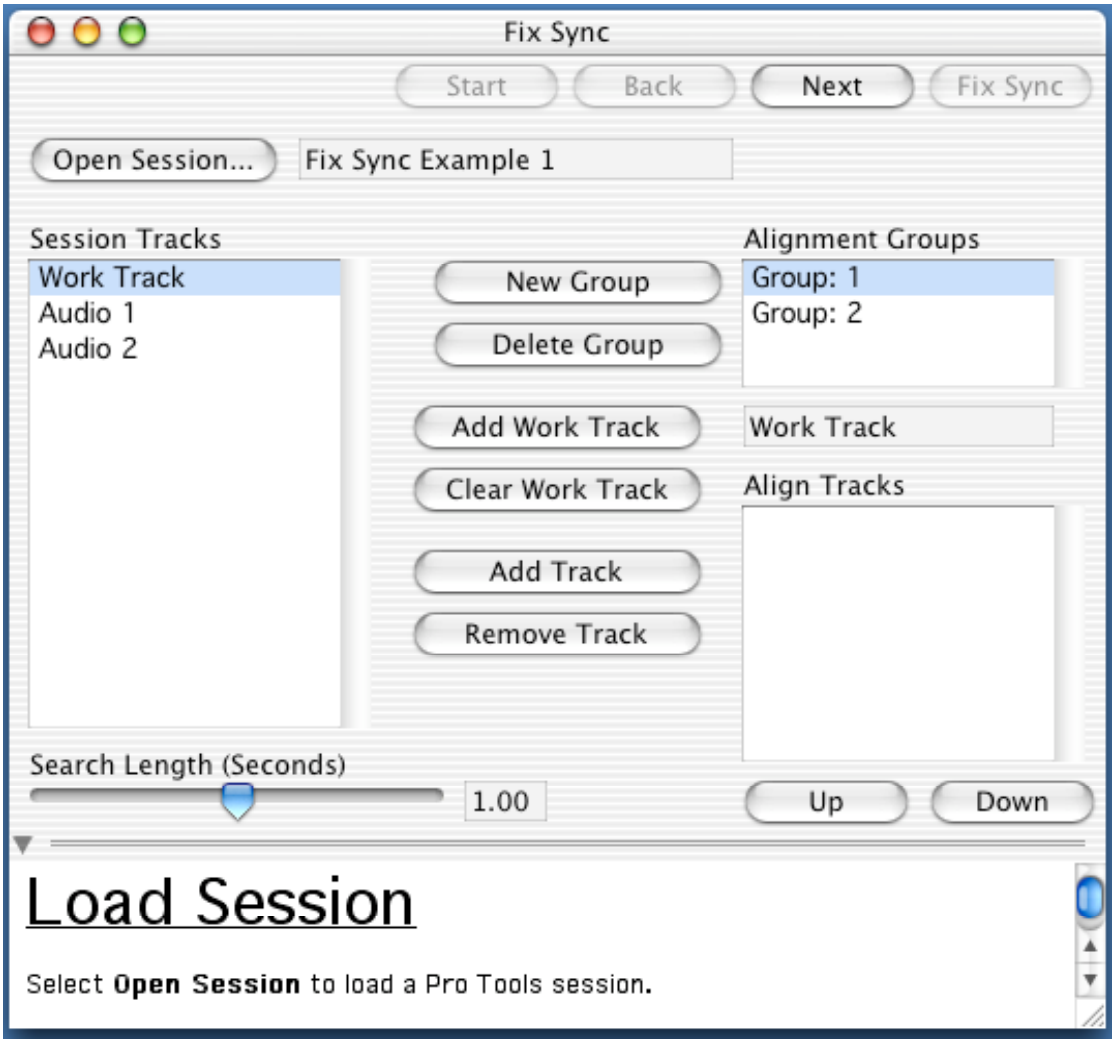
Next, a Work Track must be assigned to each alignment group being used. A Work Track contains the audio to which each conformed region in the assigned track will be compared and synchronised.

For out example we need to assign the track Work Track to each alignment group. To do this for the first alignment group:

⇒ In the **Alignment Groups** list, click **Group: 1**. In the **Session Tracks** list click **Work Track.** Click **Add Work Track** to assign this track as the 'guide' track for this alignment group. The name of the assigned work track appears in the middle-right of the **Fix Sync** window.

You will notice that **Work Track** remains in the list of session tracks available. This is because the same work track can be used for more than one alignment group.

If you are following the example session, the Fix Sync window should now look something like this.



For this example we will assign the same Work Track to both alignment groups. We have already assigned a work track to the first alignment group, to do this for the second alignment group:

⇒ In the **Alignment Groups** list, click **Group: 2**. In the **Session Tracks** list click **Work Track**. In the middle column of buttons click **Add Work Track**.

For your own sessions you may wish to assign different work tracks to different alignment groups, to create more complex Fix Sync operations. The integral help window in the Fix Sync window also explains Work Tracks and Align Tracks.

6. Assign tracks to be aligned to each group

Each alignment group must contain one or more tracks called Align Tracks. All Align Tracks in the alignment group will be aligned together using the same Work Track for reference.

For the example session we are only using one align track per alignment group. Following the example, we now assign Audio 1 as the Align Track for alignment group 1.

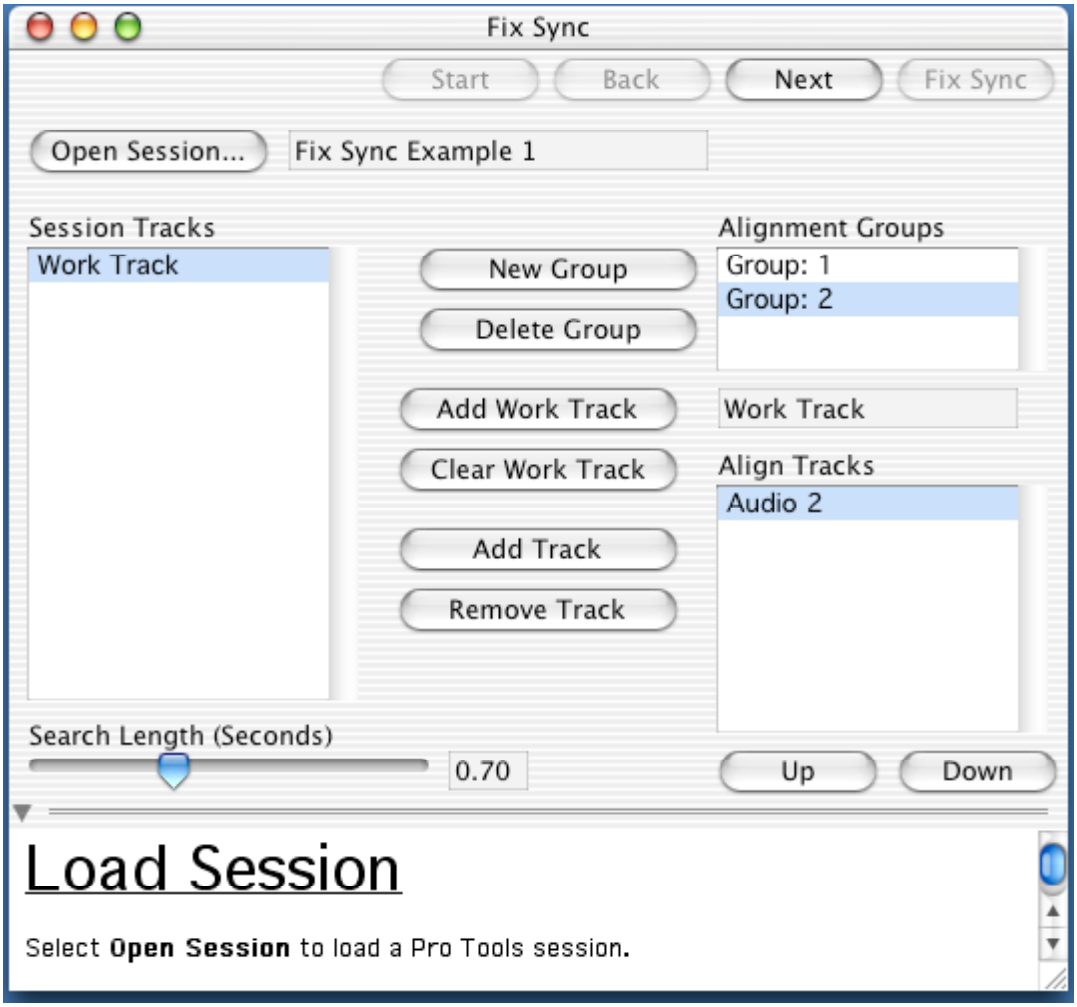
⇒ In the **Alignment Groups** list click **Group: 1**. In the **Session Tracks** list click **Audio 1**. In the middle column of buttons click **Add Track.**

Now Audio 1 will be aligned to Work Track during the Fix Sync process. When using your own sessions, you may need to add multiple Align Tracks to the same Alignment Group, for example when operating on stereo or multi-channel material. This would instruct Titan to perform identical time-domain processing across all Align Tracks in the group, ensuring that these tracks remain in-sync.

For the example we complete our track assignment by adding Audio 2 to be an Align Track of Group: 2. To do this:

⇒ In the **Alignment Groups** list click **Group: 2**. In the **Session Tracks** list click **Audio 2**. In the middle column of buttons click **Add Track.**

If you are following the example, the Fix Sync window should now look like this.



7. Select the required search length

The search length will instruct Fix Sync what is the maximum possible sync error to look for. The integral help window provides more information on setting the search length for your own Fix Sync tasks.

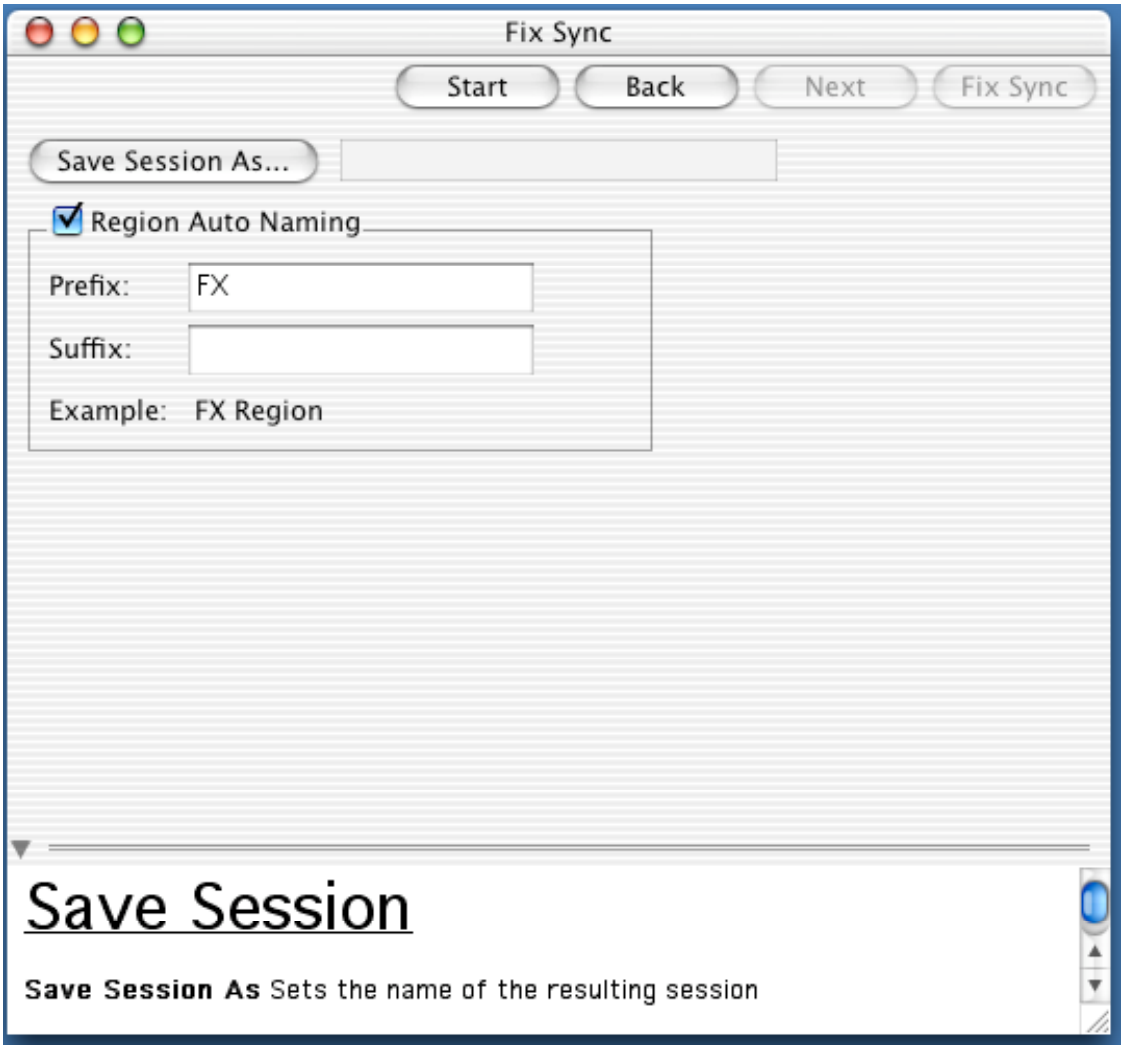
⇒ If you are following the example, drag the **Search Length** slider to 0.70 seconds.

Once the tracks have been assigned and the search length chosen you have completed the first page of the Fix Sync window. Now advance to the Save Session page of controls:

⇒ In the top right of the **Fix Sync** window, click **Next**.

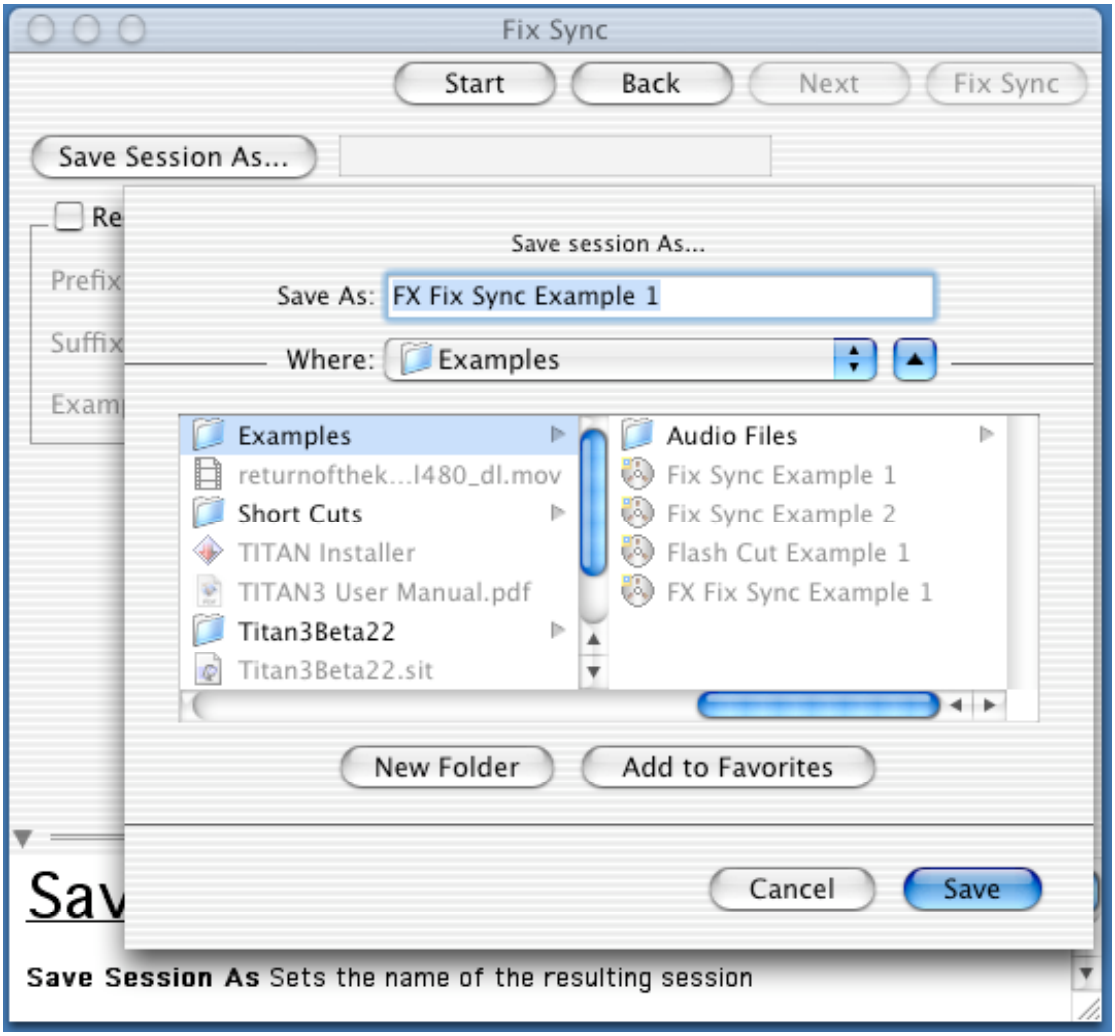
8. Enter output session name

The Fix Sync window now displays the Save Session page, which looks like this:



This page allows you to set the output session name, and choose region auto-naming options for the output session. To set the output session name:

⇒ In the **Fix Sync** window, click **Save Session As**. The **Save Session As** window will appear, which looks like this:



Locate the destination folder for the output session. In the **Save As** text box, type the name of the output session file. For the example, use the default name FC Fix Sync Example 1. Click **Save**. The Save Session As window will close. The output session name is now displayed in the **Fix Sync** window.

9. Choose region auto-naming options

The remaining settings of the Save Session page allow regions in the output session file to be named automatically. In this example we do not wish to auto-rename regions. To turn off Region Auto-Naming:

⇒ In the **Fix Sync** window, clear the **Region Auto Naming** check box. The remaining controls will now be greyed out.

For you own session you may wish to use the Region Auto-Naming feature. The integral help window describes the use of these controls in detail.

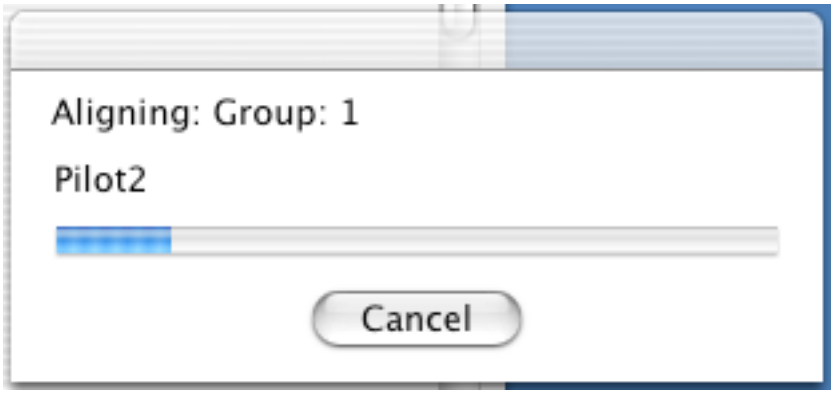
10. Start Fix Sync Processing

When an output session name has been chosen and region auto-naming controls set, the **Fix Sync** button will no longer be greyed out. To start the process:

Click **Fix Sync**.

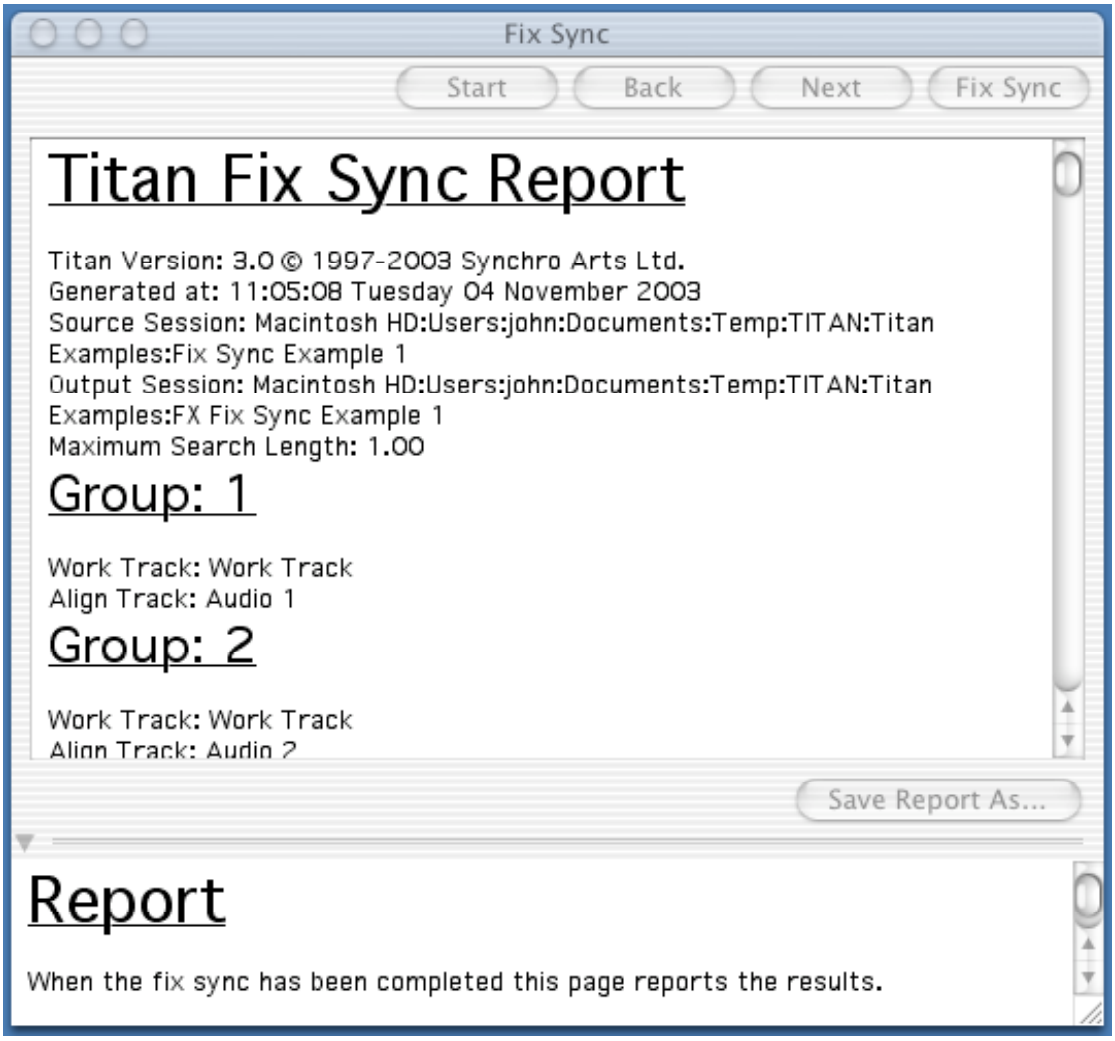
The Fix Sync process will begin. A progress window, as shown below will appear, which will indicate the percentage completed.

The process can be stopped at any time with the **Cancel** button



11. Check the report

After the Fix Sync process is complete the Report page will appear. Which will look similar to this:

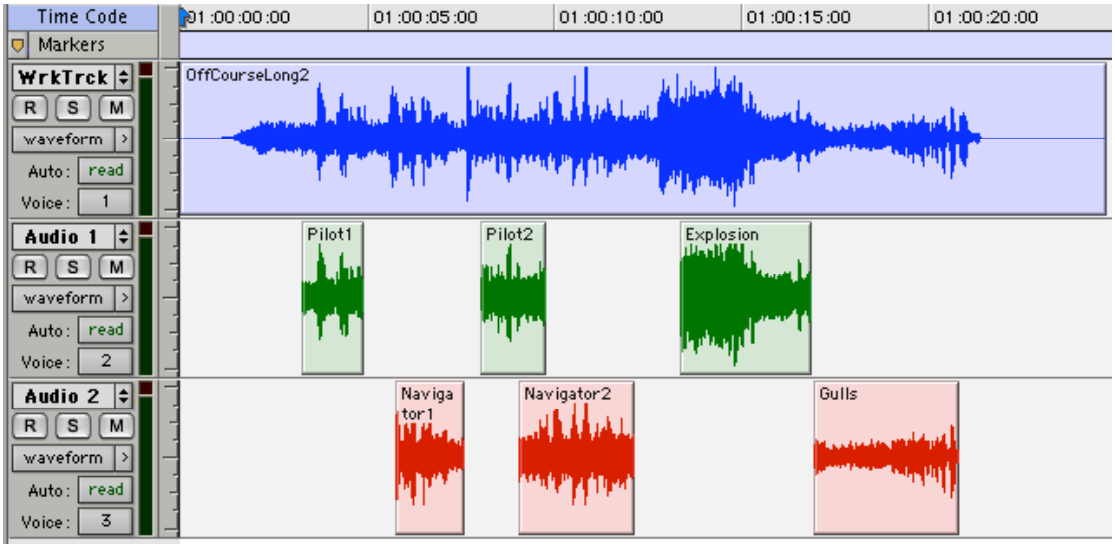

Fix Sync
Start
Back
Next
Fix Sync
Titan Fix Sync Report
Titan Version: 3.0 © 1997-2003 Synchro Arts Ltd.
Generated at: 11:05:08 Tuesday 04 November 2003
Source Session: Macintosh HD:Users:john:Documents:Temp:TITAN:Titan Examples:Fix Sync Example 1
Output Session: Macintosh HD:Users:john:Documents:Temp:TITAN:Titan Examples:FX Fix Sync Example 1
Maximum Search Length: 1.00
Group: 1
Work Track: Work Track
Align Track: Audio 1
Group: 2
Work Track: Work Track
Save Report As...
Report
When the fix sync has been completed this page reports the results.

The report contains detailed information about the Fix Sync operation. If the Fix Sync operation was successful the report will say so. If an error occurred, the report can be examined to determine the cause of the problem.

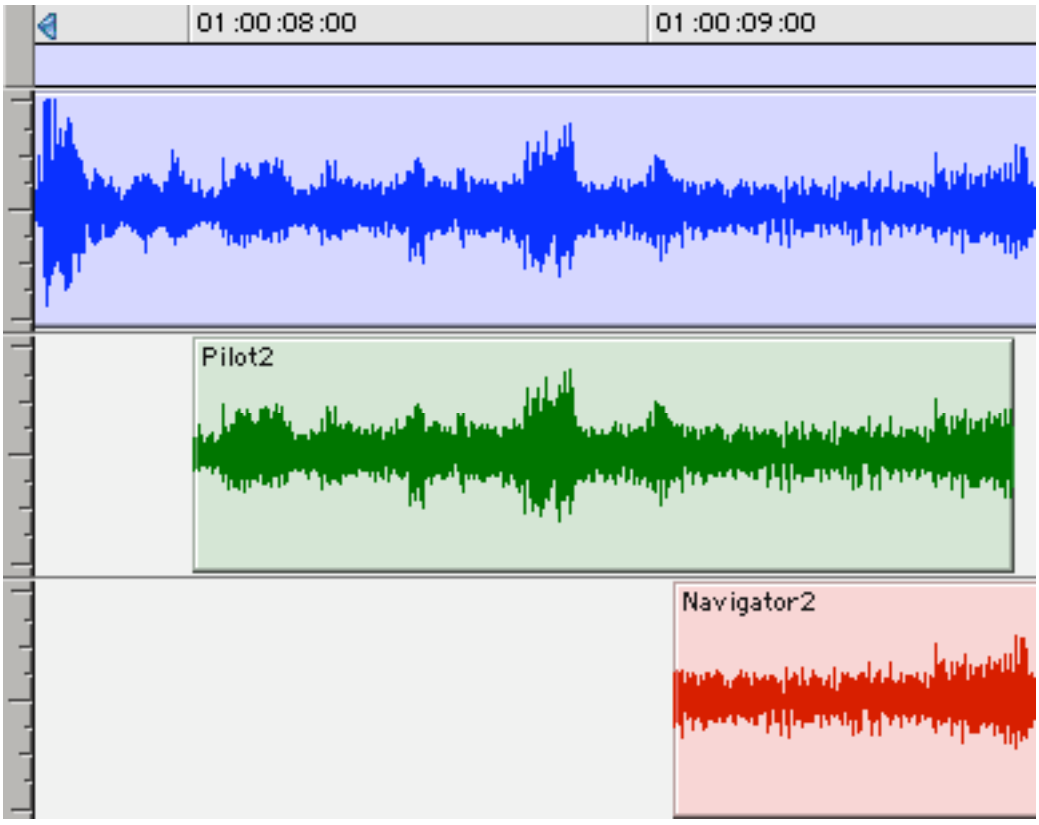
12. Checking the results

After completing the Fix Sync process, the output session can be opened in Pro Tools.

If you are following the example, start Pro Tools and open the output session FX-Fix Sync Example 1. The output session from the example, should look like this:



The regions in Audio 1 and Audio 2 are in sync with the audio in the Work Track. If we re-arrange the track order and zoom in:



We can see how the region Pilot2 has been shifted into sync with the region on WorkTrack.

Playing the track WorkTrack with tracks Audio 1 and Audio 2 in Pro Tools will confirm that there is now excellent sync between the Align Tracks and the Work Track.

How do I use Fix Sync with multi-channel audio?

Overview

When working with stereo or multi-channel audio you want to ensure that both/all channels of the audio are processed identically. This is achieved by adding all the tracks of the multi-channel audio to the same alignment group.

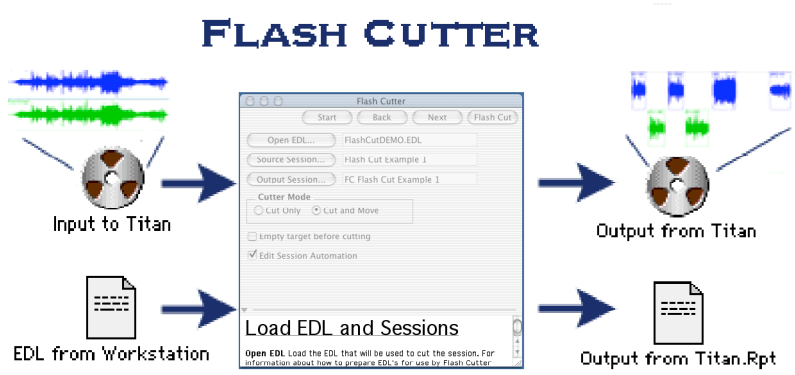
All tracks in the same alignment group will be processed identically. The integral help window in the Fix Sync window contains more detailed information on using Alignment Groups.

Flash Cutter

About Flash Cutter

Overview

Flash Cutter automatically cuts Pro Tools sessions using timecode and name information from a CMX 3600 format EDL. The processing input and output for the Flash Cutter function is illustrated below.



Flash Cutter consists of two modes of operation, which will be described separately in this manual.

3. Cut Only Mode

4. Cut and Move Mode

Flash Cutter: Cut Only Mode

About Cut Only Mode

Overview

The Flash Cutter - Cut Only mode allows audio that was previously edited or auto-conformed on another editing system, transferred to tape and recorded into a Pro Tools session to be automatically re-cut and renamed to recreate the same Regions by using an EDL from the first editing system.

The Flash Cutter function only takes a few seconds to process hundreds of events in an entire EDL in this way.

Why use Flash Cutter: Cut Only Mode?

In audio production, audio edits may be made on one workstation (for example, while editing sound to picture) and an audio transfer to DAT, Analogue or Digital Multi-track, ADAT, Betacam, etc. may be made in order to proceed to the next stage of editing on another system. Sometimes this happens in order to bypass a digital sampling frequency conversion from 44.1kHz on one system to 48kHz on another.

Often when such a transfer occurs, and OMF is not a practical option, the audio is simply re-recorded as continuous audio from the tapes into another editing system (in this case a Pro Tools system) and all of the edit location and name information is lost.

The sound editor who must next edit the transferred audio in Pro Tools may wish to (or have to) re-cut and rename the audio after the transfer. In some cases, he may have an EDL list provided by the first system's editors that provides the timecodes and the clip names, but this information must be manually entered. Such manual editing and renaming can take several hours.

Flash Cutter, avoids having to manually re-cut and rename edits in situations when tape is used to transfer audio from any editing system to a Pro Tools system, and an OMF transfer is not a practical option. The audio on tape is transferred into continuous tracks in a Pro Tools session, and correctly positioned. Flash Cutter can then use a standard EDL from the first editing system to automatically re-cut the tracks and rename the audio regions.

Using Cut Only Mode

Overview

1. **Prepare a Pro Tools Session** (this does not use Titan) in which transferred and uncut source audio is located at the correct timecode in the session. Obtain an Edit Decision List (EDL) detailing the original edits in the source audio before the transfer.

2. **Start Titan**, and then open a new Flash Cutter window. **Open** the **EDL** and the associated prepared Pro Tools Session.

3. **Choose an output session name** and select Cut Only Mode.

4. Choose **Region Auto Naming** settings for the output session.

5. **Review** the loaded **EDL**.

6. **Assign** which EDL **tracks** will cut which Pro Tools tracks.

7. **Start** Flash Cutter's **processing**. This will automatically generate a new Pro Tools Session with the audio regions cut and named.

8. **Review** the Flash Cutter **report**.

Tutorial

This tutorial will guide you through using Flash Cutter to cut the example session Flash Cutter Example 1. You may also wish to follow this tutorial and substitute your own session and files in place of the example ones. The example files needed for this tutorial are included in the Titan installer. If you have not installed the Titan Examples, refer to the section Install Titan Examples.

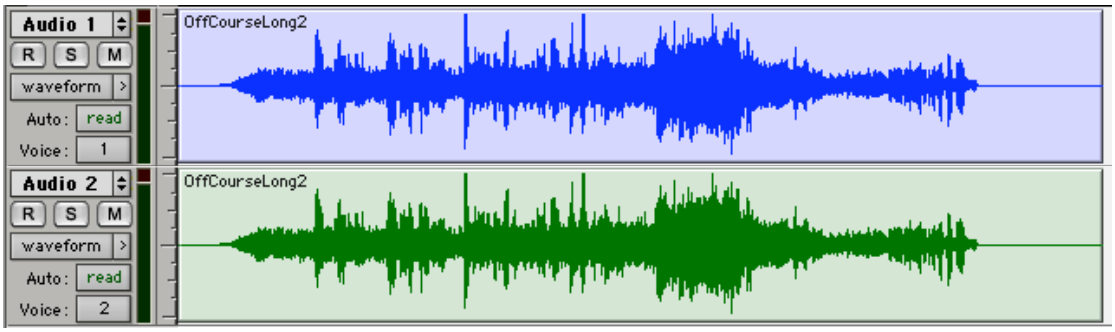
1. Prepare a Pro Tools session and EDL

If you are using the example session for this tutorial, you will not have to prepare a session and EDL to try out Flash Cutter. We recommend you use this example session first.

Flash Cutter's integral help window includes a link to the Synchro Arts website which provides detailed online help information on how to prepare your own EDL and sessions for use with Flash Cutter.

http://www.synchroarts.com/titan3/flashcutter.htm

The Flash Cutter Example 1 session, when opened in Pro Tools, looks like this:



It contains two continuous audio tracks named Audio 1 and Audio 2. The audio on the two tracks is the same, to reduce the file size of the examples.

When preparing your own sessions for us with Flash Cutter, you may use any number of audio Tracks up to the maximum total allowable in a Pro Tools Session.

The example EDL file is also in the Titan examples folder, and is called FlashCutDEMO.EDL.

It's contents can be inspected in a text editor and it contains 4 Events as shown below.

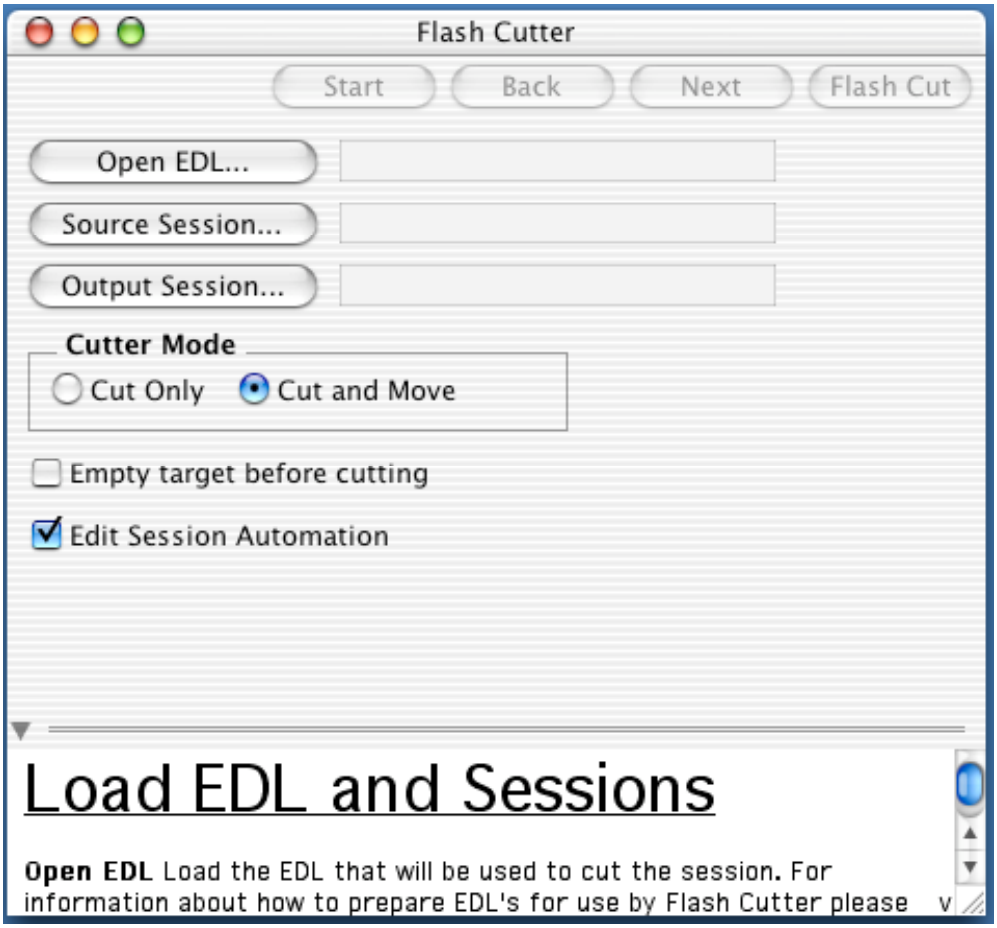
```
TITLE: Titan FLASH CUTTER DEMO
001         94 A      C        21:10:28:12 21:10:30:02 01:00:03:13 01:00:05:03
FROM CLIP NAME: 002C-1/Pilot1
002         95 A2     C        21:10:37:09 21:10:40:09 01:00:05:11 01:00:07:06
FROM CLIP NAME: 002C-3/Navigator1
003         94 A      C        21:17:54:16 21:10:39:04 01:00:07:14 01:00:09:03
FROM CLIP NAME: 002C-1/Pilot2
004         95 A2     C        21:17:58:14 21:18:01:07 01:00:09:14 01:00:12:07
FROM CLIP NAME: 002C-3/Navigator2
```

Once the Session and EDL are available, Flash Cutter can be used.

2. Start Titan and Open the Session

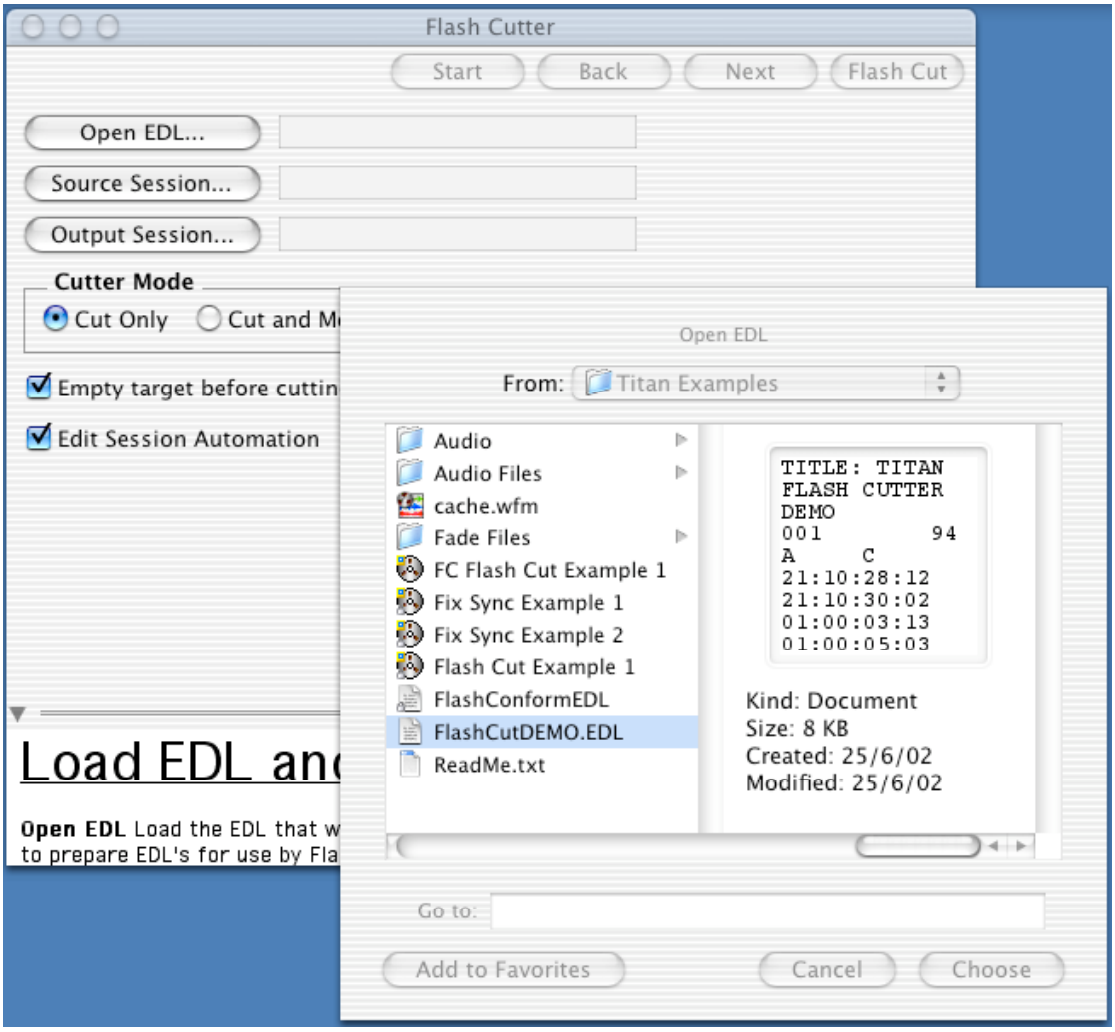
⇒ Start Titan if it isn't running by double clicking on the Titan icon.

⇒ If Titan is running, on the **File** menu, click **New Flash Cutter**, to open a new Flash Cutter processing window. The new Flash Cutter window will look like this:



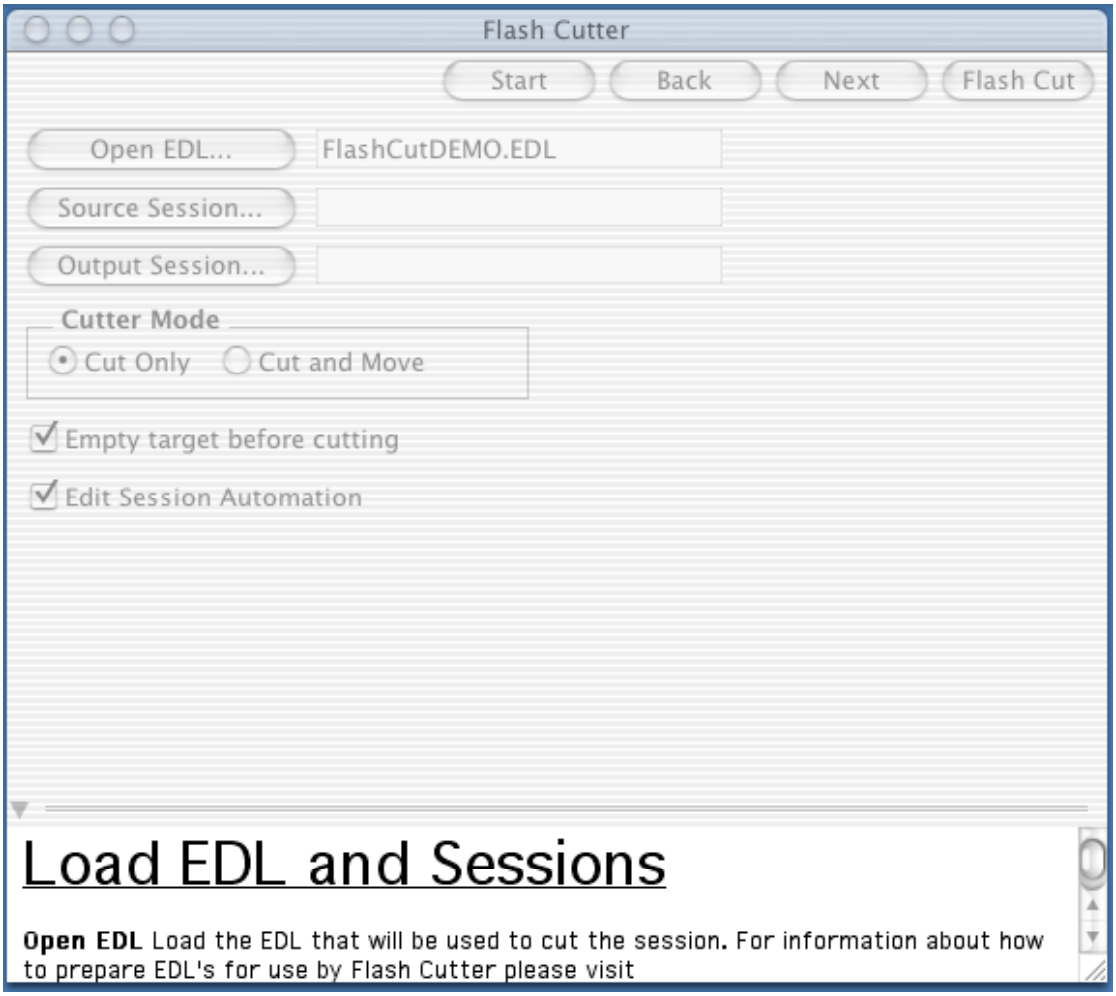
After starting a new Flash Cutter window, you must open the EDL and session files you wish to use. To open the prepared EDL file:

⇒ Click **Open EDL** in the Flash Cutter window. The **Open EDL** window will appear, and look like this:



⇒ In the **Open EDL** window, locate the prepared EDL file. For the example locate the Titan Examples folder. Click the EDL file you have prepared, for the example click FlashCutDEMO.EDL. Click **Choose**. The Open EDL window will now close. The Flash Cutter window will now display the name of the EDL.

If you are following the example, the Flash Cutter window will look like this:

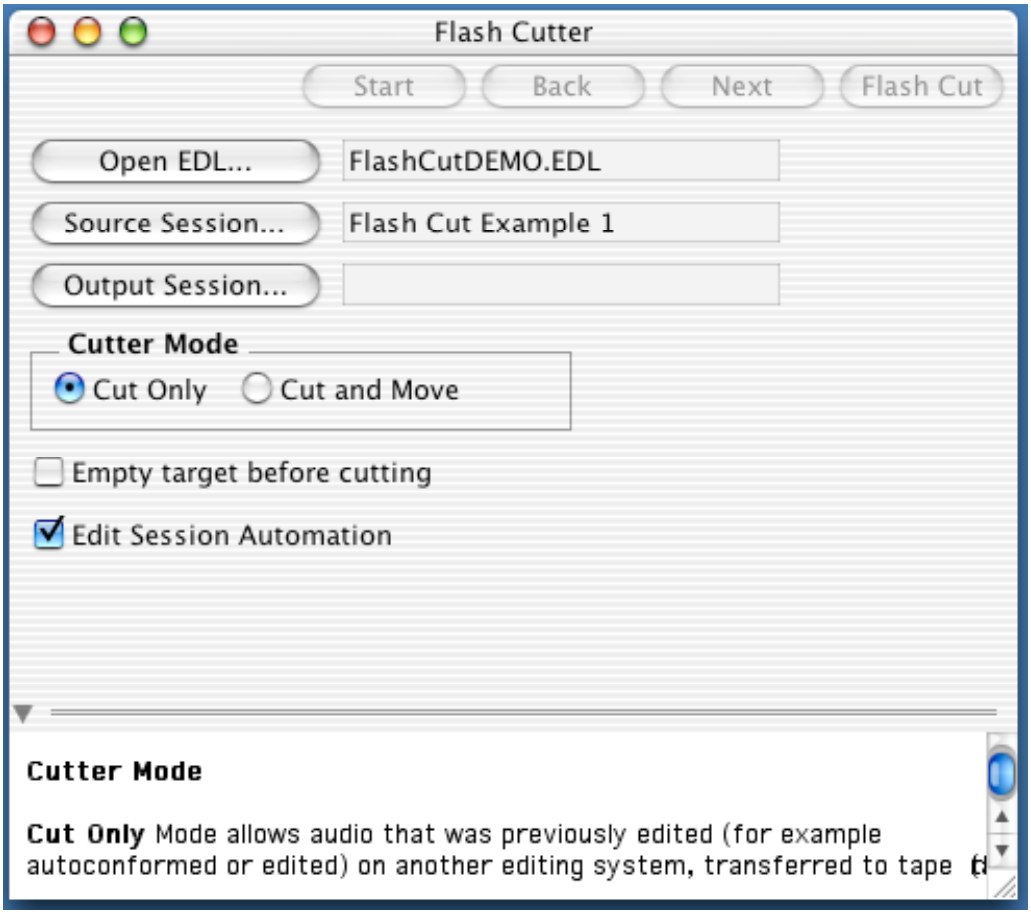


After opening the EDL file. Open the prepared session file. To do this:

⇒ Click **Source Session** in the Flash Cutter window. The **Source Session** window will appear. In the **Source Session** window, locate and select the prepared session file, then click **Choose**. For the example, choose Flash Cut Example 1 in the Titan Examples folder.

The Source Session window will close. The Flash Cutter window will now display the name of the source session.

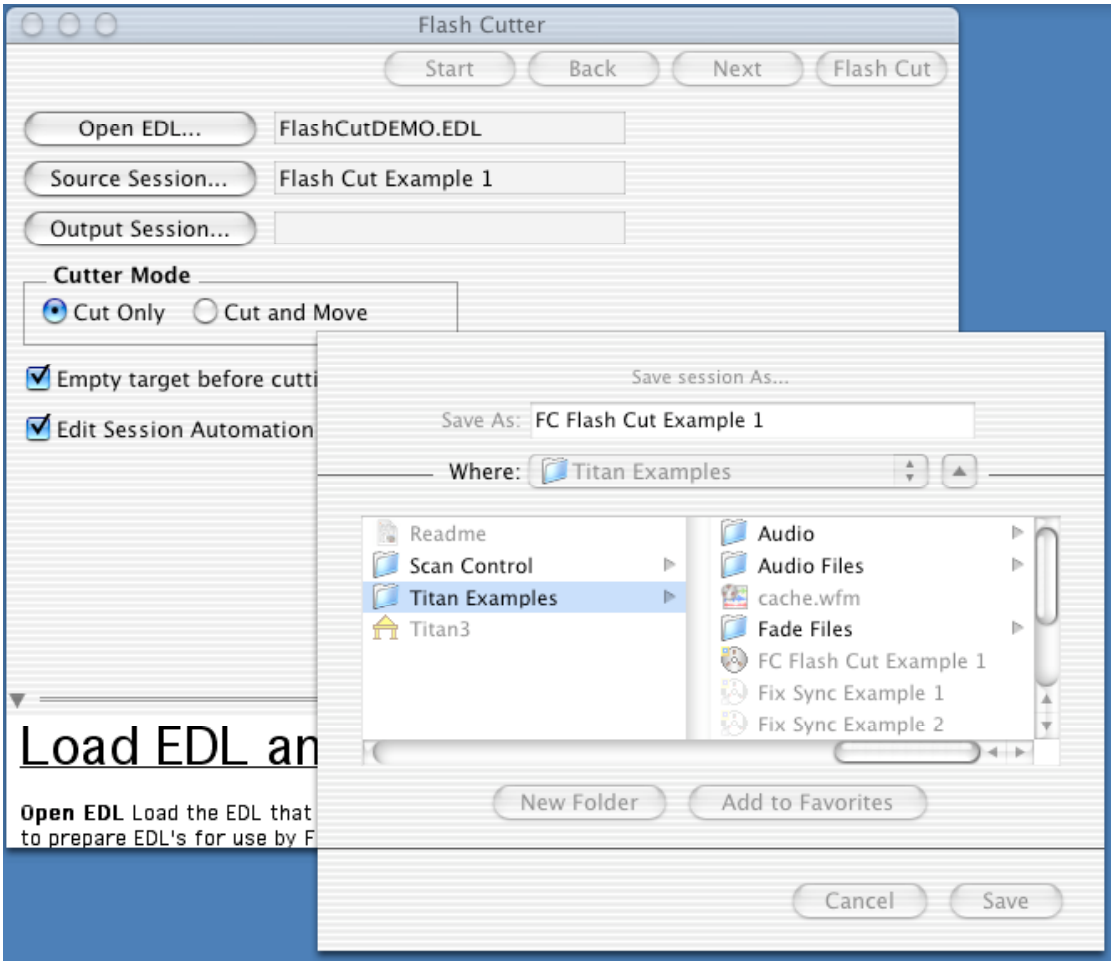
Following the example, the Flash Cutter window will now look like this:



3. Choose output session name and select cutter mode

Now choose an output session name.

⇒ In the Flash Cutter window, click **Output Session**. The **Save Session As** window will appear. It will look like this:



⇒ In the **Save Session As** window, type the name of the output session file. For the example, use the default file filename of FC Flash Cut Example 1. Click **Save**. The Save Session As window will close. The Flash Cutter window will now display the name of the output session to the right of the Output Session button.

For this tutorial we are using Flash Cutter in Cut Only Mode. Flash Cutter's integral help window explains the difference between the Flash Cutter modes in detail. To select Cut Only Mode:

⇒ In the **Flash Cutter** window, click **Cut Only**.

The help window explains the use of the remaining controls in this window. For your own sessions, set these, as you require. If you are following the example then set them as follows:

⇒ We wish to edit automation data in our example session. The help window explains how this will effect the cutting operation. In the **Flash Cutter** window, check the **Edit Session Automation** check box.

For the example, we do wish to erase the contents of the output session before we perform Flash Cut.

⇒ In the Flash Cutter window, check the Empty Target Before Cutting check box.

⇒ In the **Flash Cutter** window, click **Next,** to advance to the **Region Auto Name Options** page of controls.

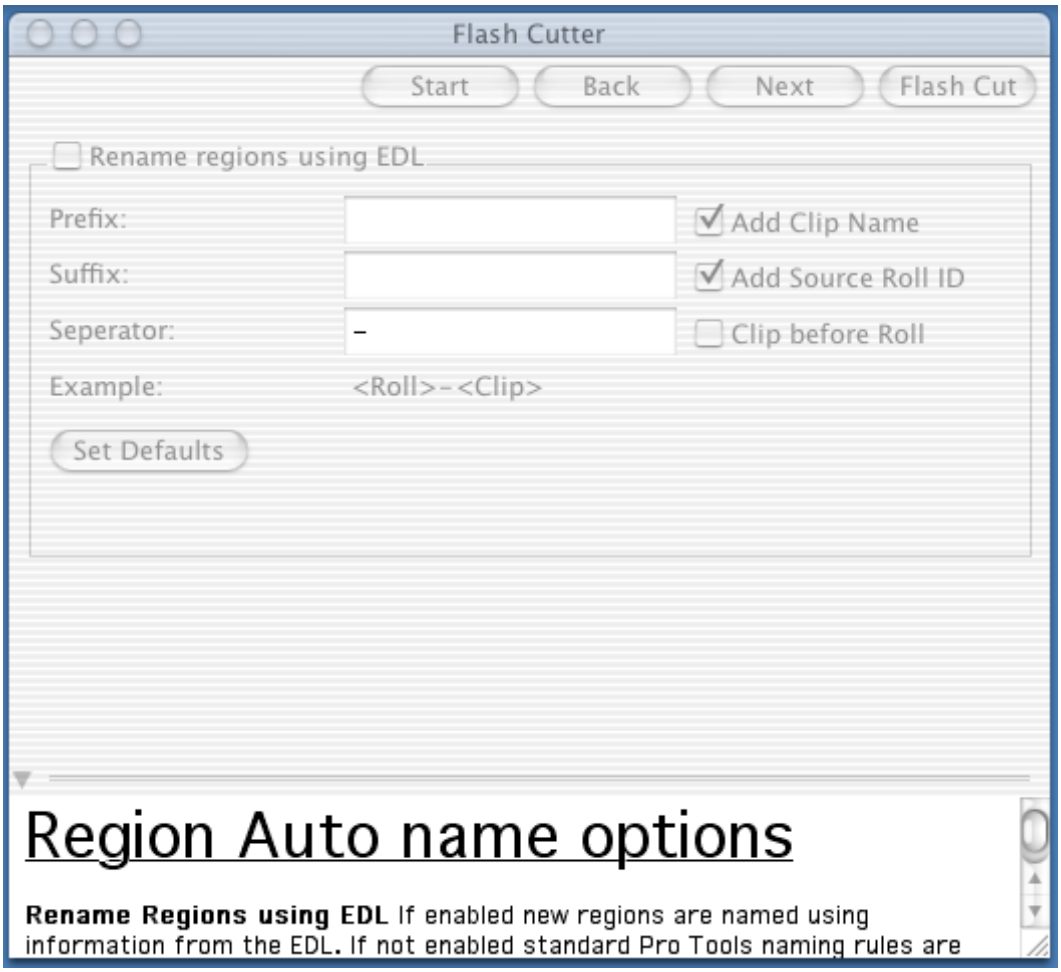
If at any time you need to return to the previous page of controls, simply click **Back**.

4. Select Region Auto Naming Options

The next page of the Flash Cutter window allows you to choose how to name regions in the output session. The help window details the use of these controls.

⇒ For our example, we do not wish to automatically rename regions using the EDL. In the **Flash Cutter** window, uncheck the **Rename regions using EDL** check box. The remaining controls will now be greyed out.

Following the example, the Flash Cutter window should now look like this:



Once region auto naming controls have been set. Advance to the **Review EDL** page of controls.

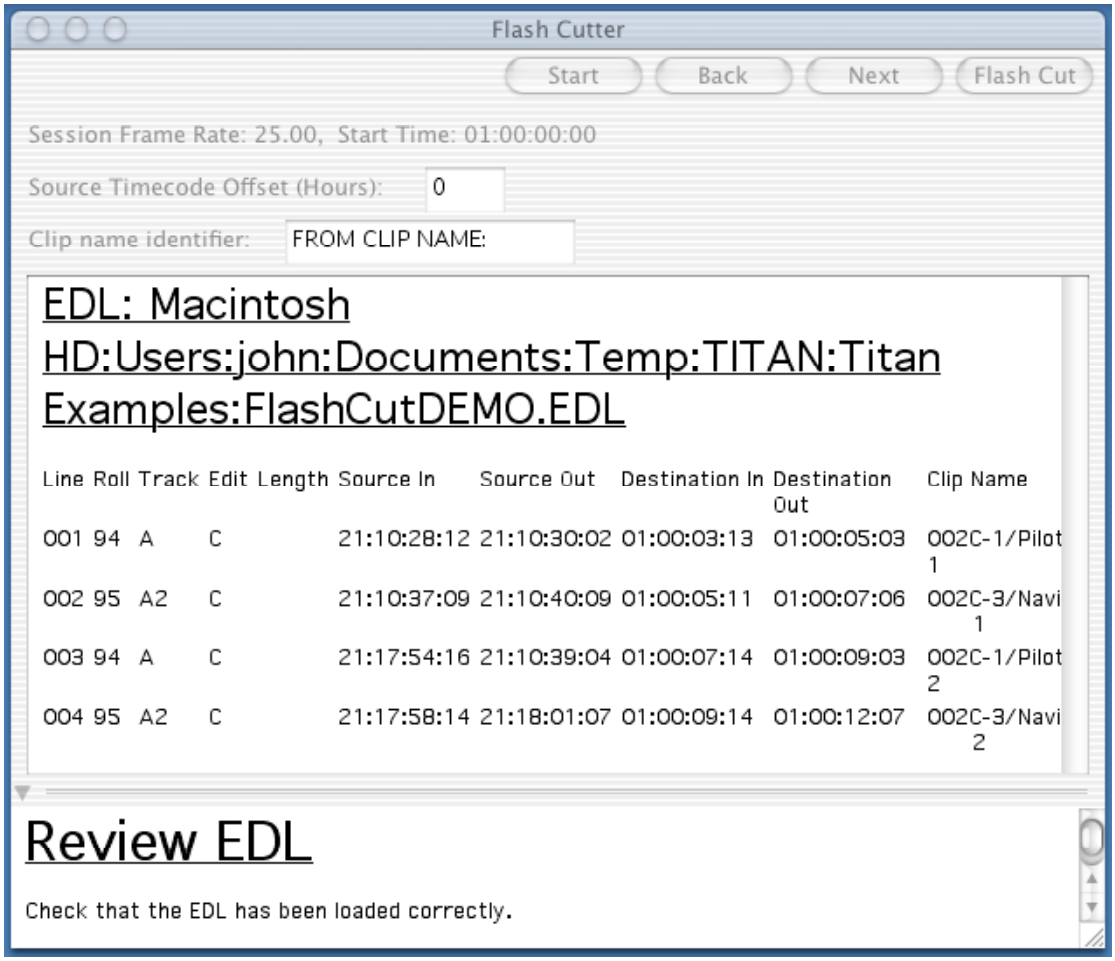
⇒ In the **Flash Cutter** window, click **Next**.

5. Review the Loaded EDL

The third page of Flash Cutter allows you to check that the EDL has been loaded correctly.

The EDL file that you chose is loaded by Flash Cutter, interpreted, and the loaded information re-displayed in this window. It is not simply a display of the text contained in the file. This allows you to check that Flash Cutter has correctly interpreted you EDL.

For this example, the Flash Cutter window will look like this:


Flash Cutter
Start
Back
Next
Flash Cut
Session Frame Rate: 25.00, Start Time: 01:00:00:00
Source Timecode Offset (Hours): 0
Clip name identifier: FROM CLIP NAME:
EDL: Macintosh HD:Users:john:Documents:Temp:TITAN:Titan Examples:FlashCutDEMO.EDL
Line Roll Track Edit Length Source In Source Out Destination In Destination Out Clip Name
001 94 A C 21:10:28:12 21:10:30:02 01:00:03:13 01:00:05:03 002C-1/Pilot 1
002 95 A2 C 21:10:37:09 21:10:40:09 01:00:05:11 01:00:07:06 002C-3/Navi 1
003 94 A C 21:17:54:16 21:10:39:04 01:00:07:14 01:00:09:03 002C-1/Pilot 2
004 95 A2 C 21:17:58:14 21:18:01:07 01:00:09:14 01:00:12:07 002C-3/Navi 2
Review EDL
Check that the EDL has been loaded correctly.

The above display from our example EDL shows four EDL lines and has correctly interpreted the Roll, Track, In, and Out times contained in the EDL.

Consult the integral help window, for more information on reviewing the loaded EDL. Once you have confirmed that EDL has been loaded correctly advance to the next page of controls.

⇒ In the **Flash Cutter** window, click **Next**, to advance to the **Select Cutter Tracks** page of controls.

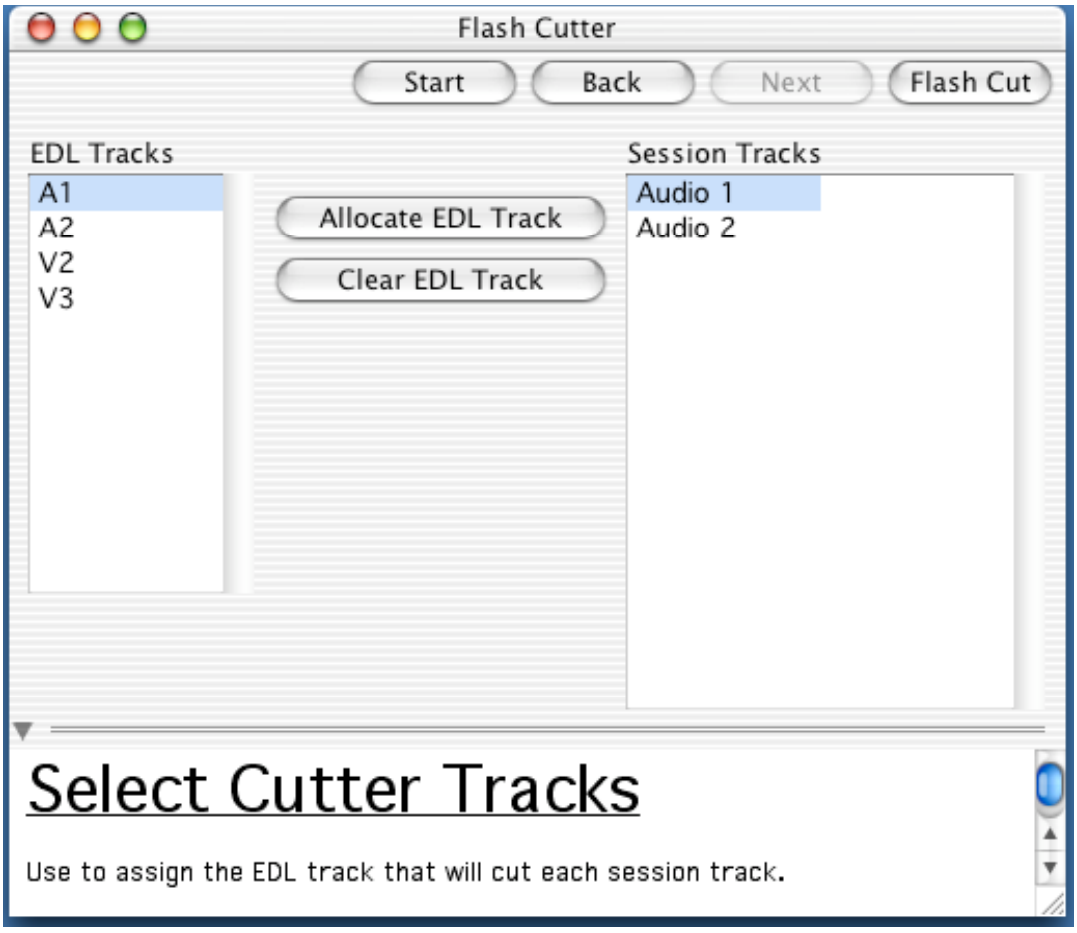
6. Assign EDL Tracks to Session Tracks

EDL Tracks must be assigned to each session track that requires cutting. The EDL track contains the in and out timecode for each assigned track to be cut as well as name information for the cut regions.

For the example we wish to assign Audio 1 to be cut with EDL Track A1, and Audio 2 to be cut with EDL Track A2. To do this:

⇒ In the **EDL Tracks** list, click **A1**. In the **Session Tracks** list, click **Audio 1**.

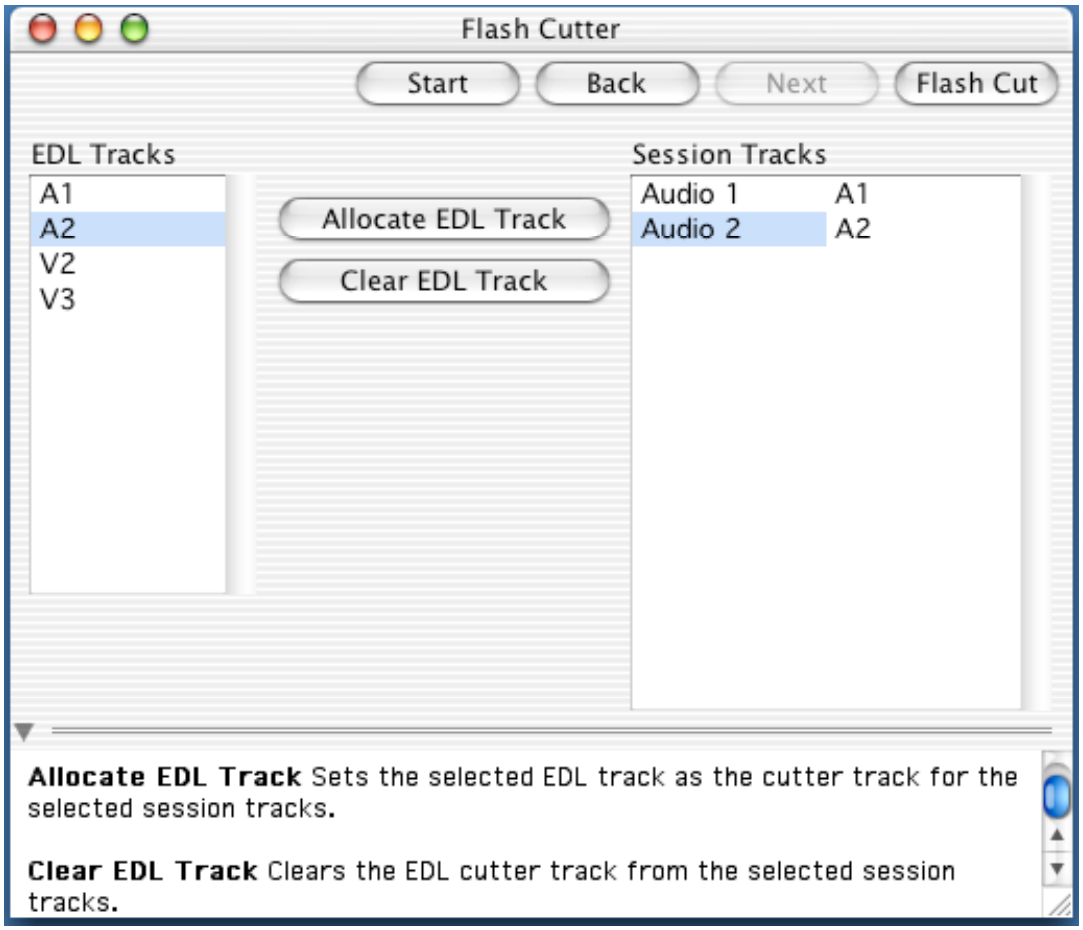
Following the example, the Flash Cutter window should now look like this:



⇒ Following the example, click **Allocate EDL Track**. In the Session Tracks list A1 will appear to the right of Audio 1. This means that Audio 1 will be cut by EDL Track A1.

⇒ In the **EDL Tracks** list, click **A2**. In the **Session Tracks** list click **Audio 2**. Click **Allocate EDL Track**. In the Session Tracks list A2 will appear to the right of A2. This means that Audio 2 will be cut by EDL Track A2.

The Flash Cutter window should now look like this:



For your own sessions a single EDL Channel may be assigned to multiple Session Tracks. For example, when working with stereo or multi-track transfers, A1 could be assigned to two or more Session Tracks.

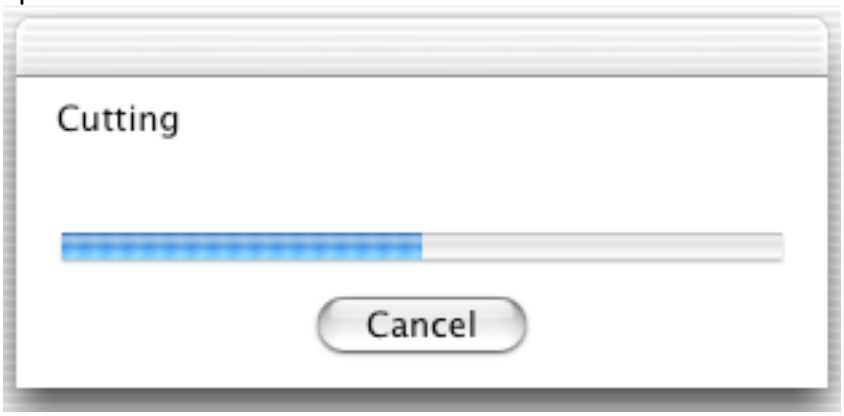
To select multiple Session tracks click on the top track, then with the shift key pressed click on the bottom track. The highlighted tracks may then all be assigned to the same EDL Track by clicking **Allocate EDL Track.**

7. Start Flash Cutter Processing

Once all the session tracks that you wish to cut have an EDL track assigned to them, you may start the Flash Cut process.

⇒ To start the Flash Cut process, click **Flash Cut.**

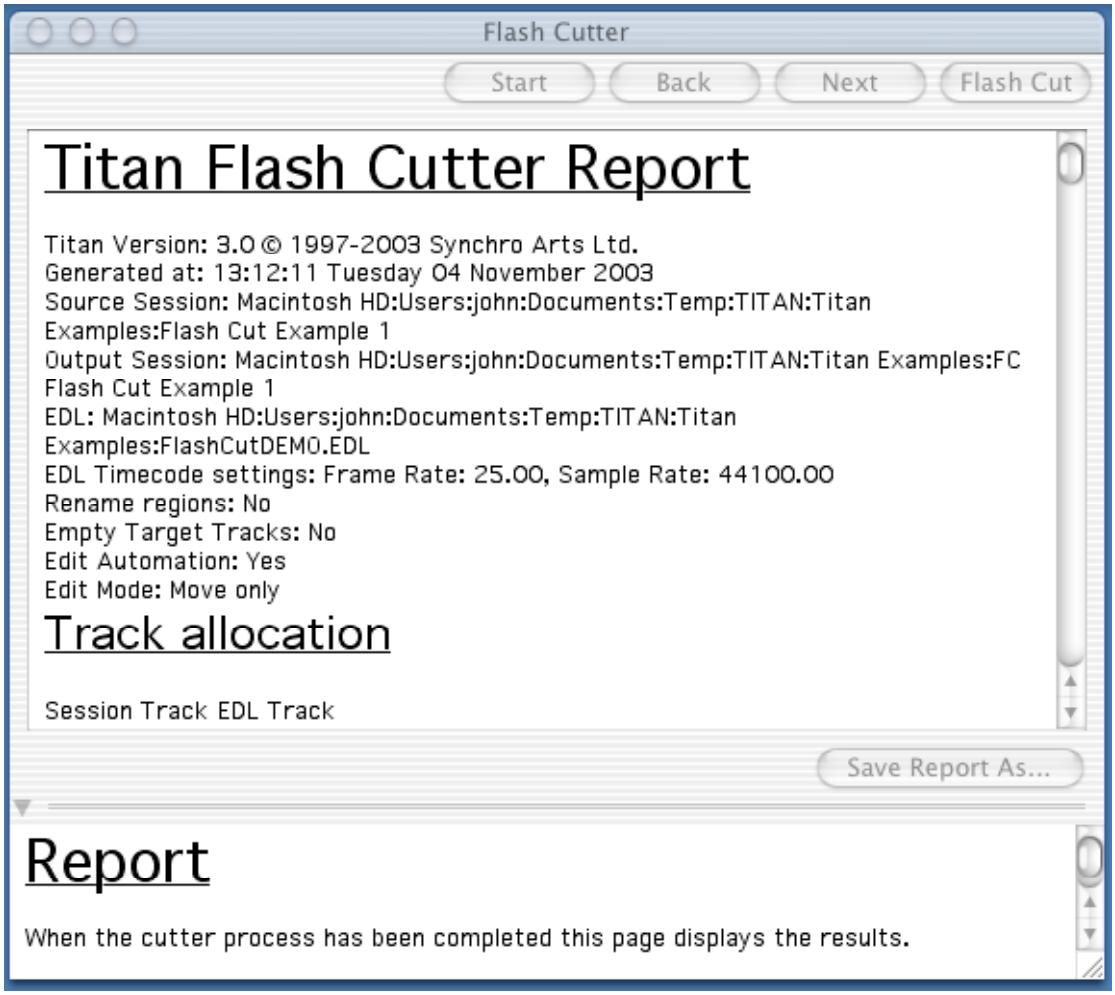
The Flash Cut process will now start. A progress window will be displayed during the process.



The process can be stopped with the **Cancel** button.

8. Check the Flash Cutter Report

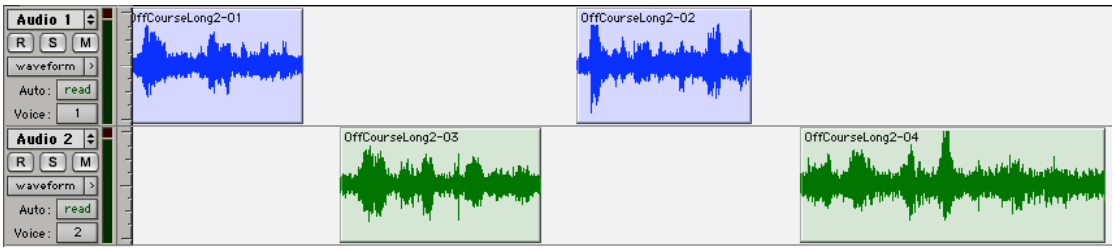
After Flash Cut is complete the report page will be displayed. The report will say whether the Flash Cut process worked correctly or if an error was encountered, and also contains detailed information about the Flash Cut process. If an error occurred, then the report can be examined to work out the cause of the error.


Flash Cutter
Start
Back
Next
Flash Cut
Titan Flash Cutter Report
Titan Version: 3.0 © 1997-2003 Synchro Arts Ltd.
Generated at: 13:12:11 Tuesday 04 November 2003
Source Session: Macintosh HD:Users:john:Documents:Temp:TITAN:Titan Examples:Flash Cut Example 1
Output Session: Macintosh HD:Users:john:Documents:Temp:TITAN:Titan Examples:FC Flash Cut Example 1
EDL: Macintosh HD:Users:john:Documents:Temp:TITAN:Titan Examples:FlashCutDEMO.EDL
EDL Timecode settings: Frame Rate: 25.00, Sample Rate: 44100.00
Rename regions: No
Empty Target Tracks: No
Edit Automation: Yes
Edit Mode: Move only
Track allocation
Session Track EDL Track
Save Report As...
Report
When the cutter process has been completed this page displays the results.

9. Open the cut session in Pro Tools

If the Flash Cut operation was a success then the output session can be opened in Pro Tools.

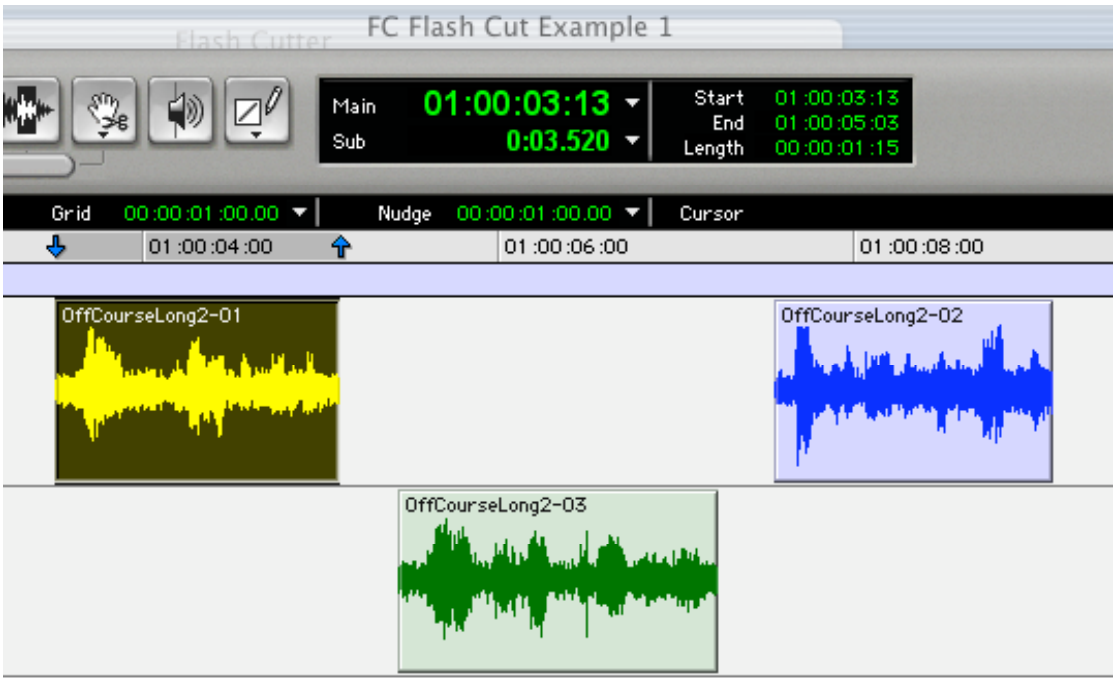
If you have completed this tutorial with the example session, then the output session FC Flash Cut Example 1 will look like this, when loaded into Pro Tools.



In the example, the four cut and named regions are OffCourseLong2-01 to OffCourseLong2-04. When playing the new cut tracks, the user should hear only dialog in this example.

Closer inspection of the audio Regions show that they have been made at the correct timecode and have been given the proper names using Pro Tools naming conventions. The first 3 EDL events are repeated below with a section of the resulting Pro Tools session. The first region is selected in Pro Tools so it's start and stop times (01:00:03:13 and 01:00:05:03) can be seen in the Pro Tools Timecode window. This shows it corresponds with the Record In and Out times in the EDL, and the positions of the other regions can also be seen to be correct against the time line.

```
TITLE: Titan FLASH CUTTER DEMO
001         94 A     C        21:10:28:12 21:10:30:02 01:00:03:13 01:00:05:03
FROM CLIP NAME: 002C-1/Pilot1
002         95 A2     C       21:10:37:09 21:10:40:09 01:00:05:11 01:00:07:06
FROM CLIP NAME: 002C-3/Navigator1
003         94 A     C        21:17:54:16 21:10:39:04 01:00:07:14 01:00:09:03
FROM CLIP NAME: 002C-1/Pilot2
```



Flash Cutter: Cut & Move Mode

About Cut & Move Mode

Overview

The Cut and Move mode allows Flash Cutter to use a CMX3600 EDL as a re-conform or change list, on Pro Tools sessions. For each EDL event, all regions and fades between the Source In and Source Out timecodes will be cut and moved to a new Pro Tools session. The destination timecode in the new session is determined by the EDL events Destination In timecode.

Why use Cut and Move Mode?

This function is useful for certain types of Change Lists generated during video and film editing and by generating a simple EDL can also be used to automate editing of sections of Music programs many tracks wide.

What is the difference between Cut and Move Mode and Cut Only Mode?

Cut and Move Mode is nearly identical to the Cut Only Mode described in the sections **Flash Cutter**. The only difference is that during processing, blocks of audio are not only cut, but also moved to a new timecode. This chapter will elaborate on the major new aspects of this mode

What is a change list?

This change list looks like an EDL in which for each changed event, there is a source In and Out timecode, followed by a destination ("record") In and Out timecode. An example of a simple change list is given below

```
TITLE: SPOOL2 VERS F SFX
001  DAT001   A     C        00:00:19:15 00:00:19:16 02:00:06:00 02:00:06:01
002  VERS.D.D A     C        02:04:29:23 02:04:34:24 02:00:08:00 02:00:13:01
003  VERS.D.D A     C        02:04:37:18 02:04:51:22 02:00:13:01 02:00:27:05
004  VERS.D.D A     C        02:04:53:05 02:04:54:17 02:00:27:05 02:00:28:17
005  VERS.D.D A     C        02:04:55:18 02:04:59:20 02:00:28:17 02:00:32:19
```

Using Cut and Move Mode

Overview

1. In the Flash Cutter window, **open the EDL**, and the session to be cut.

2. In the Flash Cutter window, **enter an output session name**.

3. In the Flash Cutter window **select Cut and Move Mode** and other options as required. Click Next to advance to the second page of controls.

4. **Select region auto-naming options** for the output session as required, then click Next.

5. **Review the loaded EDL**, and confirm that it has loaded correctly by clicking Next.

6. Choose which EDL tracks will cut and move which Session tracks by clicking **Allocate EDL Track**.

7. Click Flash Cut to **start the process**. For each EDL event, Titan will cut the source session audio on the allocated tracks at the timecodes contained in the EDL, and move it to the output session at the destination timecodes contained in the EDL.

8. After processing has completed, **review and save the Flash Cutter Report**.

What if there is no audio in the source session at a time specified in the EDL?

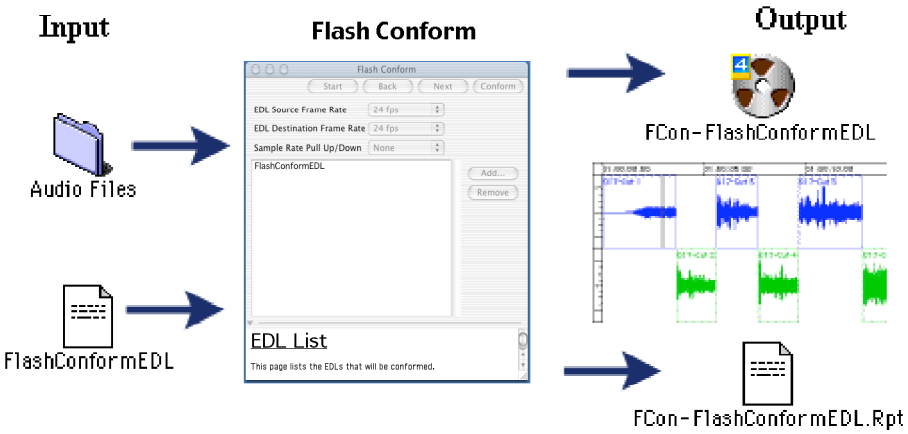
If audio is not available in the Source Pro Tools Session at the Source In timecode of an EDL event, an error message will be written to the Report file.

Flash Conform

About Flash Conform

Overview

Flash Conform provides fast auto conforming from pre-loaded and appropriately named audio files, and an EDL. Once the user has flash-conformed the session sync can be verified rapidly using Titan's Fix Sync function.



What EDL format does Flash Conform support?

Flash Conform supports CMX 3600 format EDLs, with up to 16 channels, and comment fields.

Flash Conform will recognise all standard CMX3600 EDL Channel identifiers (e.g. "AA", "B", "A2/V", "AA/V", "V", "A2", etc).

Flash Conform will also recognise: "A3" to "A16" and, if the identifier = "NONE", it will recognize AUD 5 to AUD 16 in the comment field.

The EDL should be sorted in increasing Program Order. If overlaps of audio occur in the EDL, when the session is created, later events will cause audio regions to overwrite parts of other previously inserted audio regions.

What format should the audio files be in, and how should they be named?

Flash Conform supports SDII, Wave, and Broadcast Wave file formats. Audio source files for the conform should be named in a logical manner, so that Flash Conform can identify them. For example, the filename may begin with

the Reel [1]Identifier as a number, which Flash Conform can then use to match with Reel Identifiers found in the EDL. The way you name your audio files is called a file-naming schema.

Support for a number of standard file-naming schemas are included with Flash Conform. The naming schema you are using can be selected from within the Flash Conform window, under **File Selection Settings**. New settings may be downloaded from the Synchro Arts website at:

http://www.synchroarts.com/titan3/flashconform.htm

If you have a file-naming schema that is not handled by any of the available file selection settings please contact Synchro Arts for advice. The File Selection Settings have been designed so that new settings can be easily created. If you contact Synchro Arts we will need some examples of the file names used in your project.

What happens during the Flash Conform process

During processing, Flash Conform will step through each EDL event and do the following:

1. Flash Conform reads the next event reel name, and Source timecode from the supplied EDL.

2. It then looks through the specified folders for an audio file whose name matches the event reel name (e.g. its name starts with the reel name).

3. It then looks within the audio file for audio at the event Source timecode:

    a) If audio is found at the Source timecode, a region containing this audio is created in the output session on the appropriate track and at the timecode specified by the EDL events Destination timecode.

    b) If no audio is found at this timecode, Flash Conform moves on to the next matching audio file in the folder, until there are no more matches.

4. The above steps are repeated until there are no more EDL events to process.

[1] The term reel and roll are both used to reference to the source roll identifiers.

Using Flash Conform

Overview

1. **Obtain an EDL for the conform**, and load all the audio for the conform onto the system (for example, by recording into Pro Tools), with the audio files named logically, so that they can be identified by Flash Conform.

2. **Start Titan** and open a new Flash Conform Window.

3. **Open the EDL** by clicking Add, and then select the Frame rates you are using and the Pull Up / Pull Down option as required. Advance to the next page of controls by clicking Next.

4. **Review the loaded EDL**. If the EDL contains name information, enter the name identifier that is used in Clip Name Identifier. Advance to next page. If you have selected multiple EDLs a review page for each EDL will be displayed.

5. Now **select the file-naming schema you are using** with the File Selection Settings control. Customize the settings to your requirements, using the remaining controls, and the advance to the next page.

6. **Specify the directories containing the audio files** for the conform by clicking Add. Click Check Files to confirm that the audio files will be usable for this conform, and then advance to the next page.

7. **Select the output session name**, Pro Tools version to output, and whether to de-interleave the audio files during the process. Click Next, to present the last page of controls.

8. **Select the destination folders,** for any files that have to be de-multiplexed. Multiple destination folders can be selected. Each folder should be on separate disk volumes, as a disk becomes full Titan will switch to the next available volume.

9. Now choose region auto-naming options for the output session, and **start the conform** by clicking Conform.

10. When the conform is complete, **review and save the Report**.

Tutorial

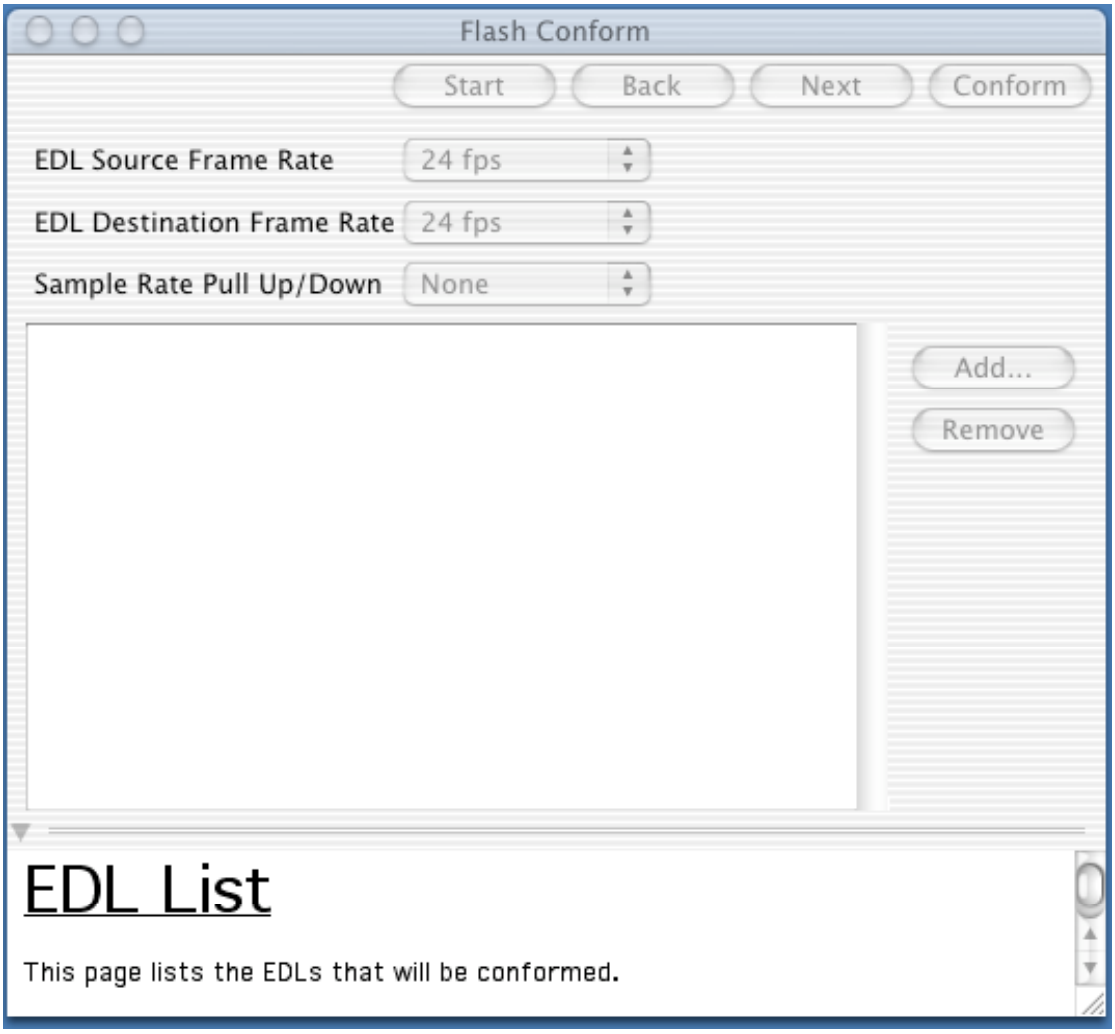
This tutorial will guide you through using Flash Conform to conform the example session. You may also wish to follow this tutorial and substitute your own session and files in place of the example ones. The example files needed for this tutorial are included in the Titan installer. If you have not installed the Titan Examples, refer to the section Install Titan Examples.

1. Start Titan and open a new Flash Conform Window.

⇒ On the **desktop**, double click on the **Titan icon**.

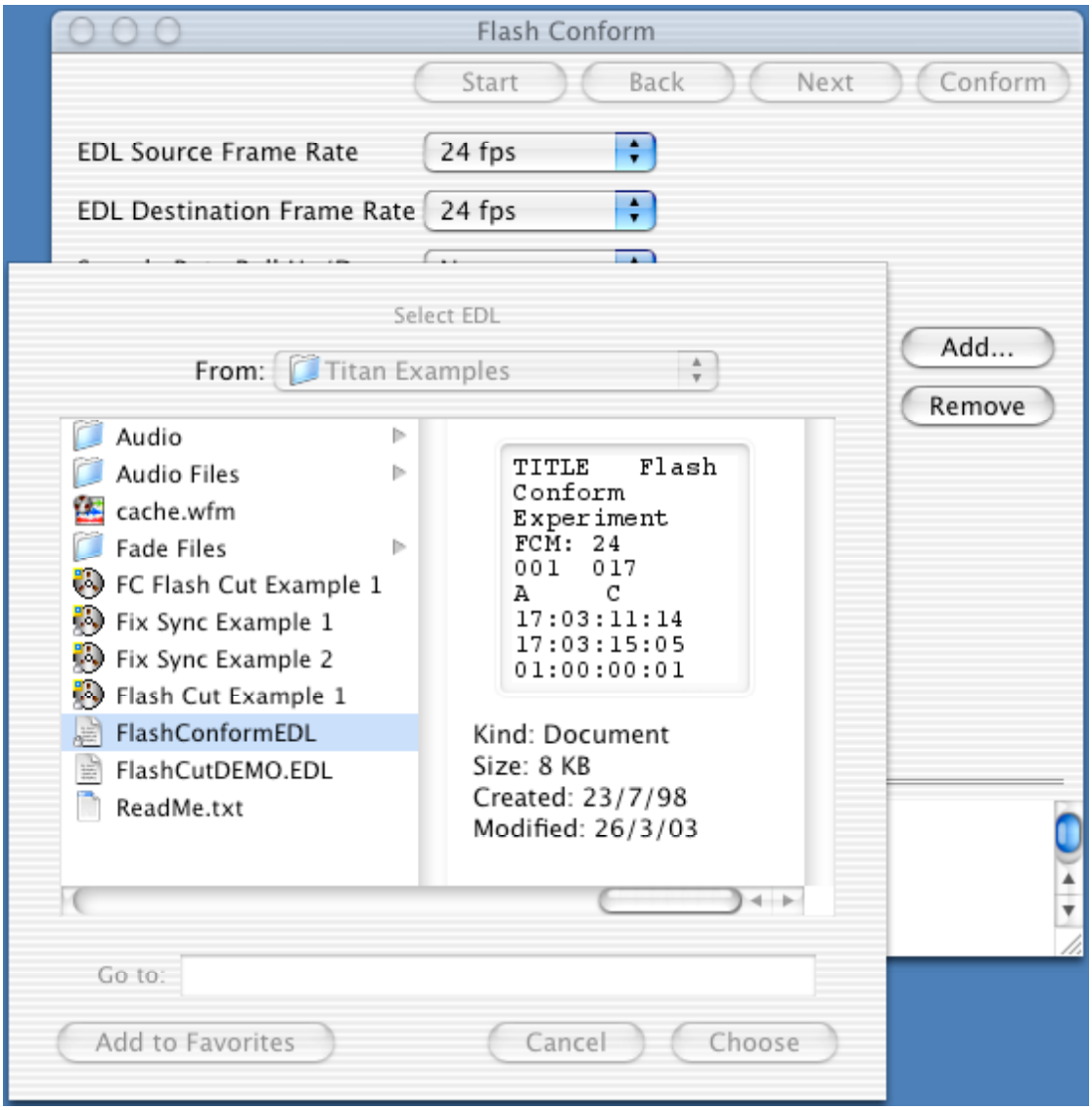
⇒ If Titan is running, on the **File** menu, click **New Flash Conform**, to open a new Flash Conform processing window.

The new Flash Conform window will look like this:



2. Open the EDL file

⇒ In the **Flash Conform** window, click **Add.** The select EDL window will appear. It will look like this:



⇒ Now locate the EDL you wish to use for the conform. For the example, locate the Titan Examples folder, click **FlashConformEDL**, and then click **Choose.**

The Select EDL window will disappear. The name of the EDL file you have chosen is displayed in the Flash Conform window. If you wish to process more than one EDL file, simply click Add, and select another EDL.

If you have selected the wrong EDL file, simply click on the filename, and click **Remove.**

Now you must select the EDL source and destination frame rate you are using, and whether to employ sample rate pull up / pull down, during the conform. If you are using the example EDL, you must set the source and destination frame rate to 24 fps, and no pull up / pull down:

⇒ In the Flash Conform window, click on the **EDL Source Frame Rate** control and click **24 fps**. Now click on the **EDL Destination Frame Rate** control, and click **24 fps**. Click on Sample **Rate Pull Up / Down,** and click **None**.

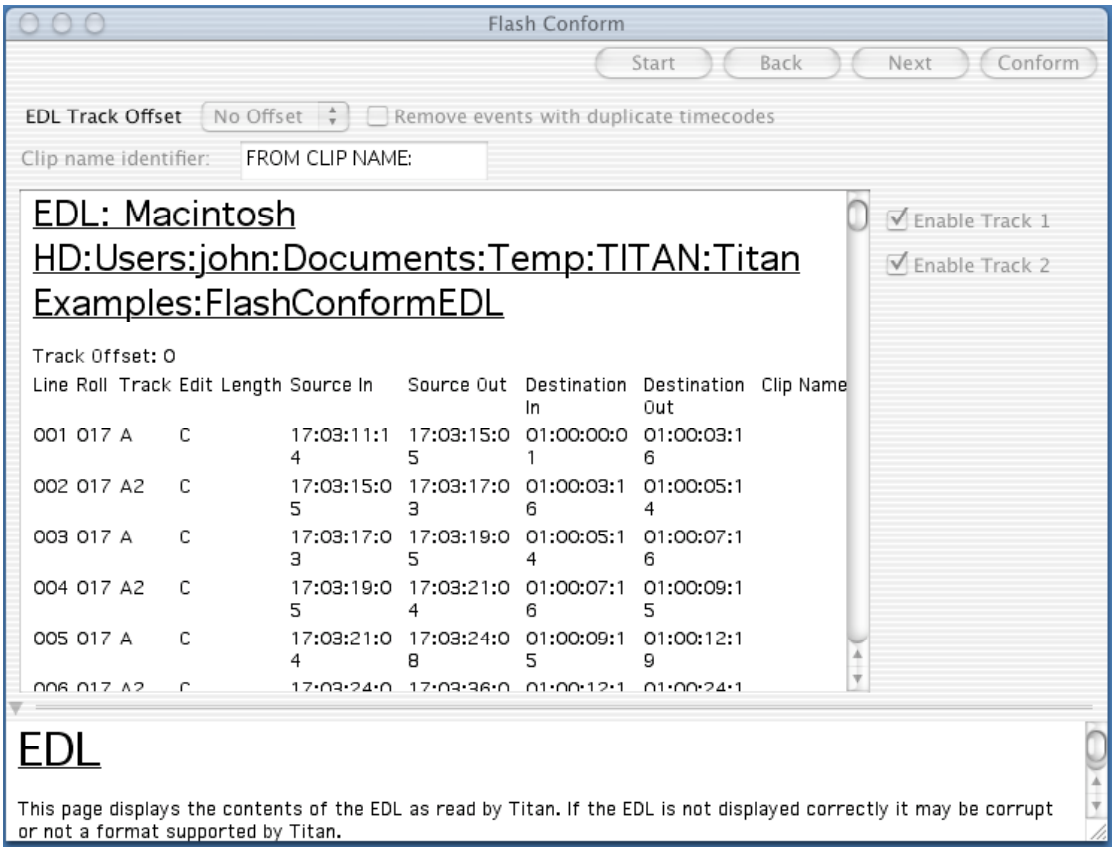
Now you have selected the EDL you are using, advance to the next page of controls.

⇒ In the **Flash Conform** window, click **Next**. This will advance you to the **Review EDL** page.

3. Review the loaded EDL

The next page of the Flash Conform window, will display the contents of the loaded EDL. You should review the EDL data to ensure that Flash Conform has loaded it correctly.

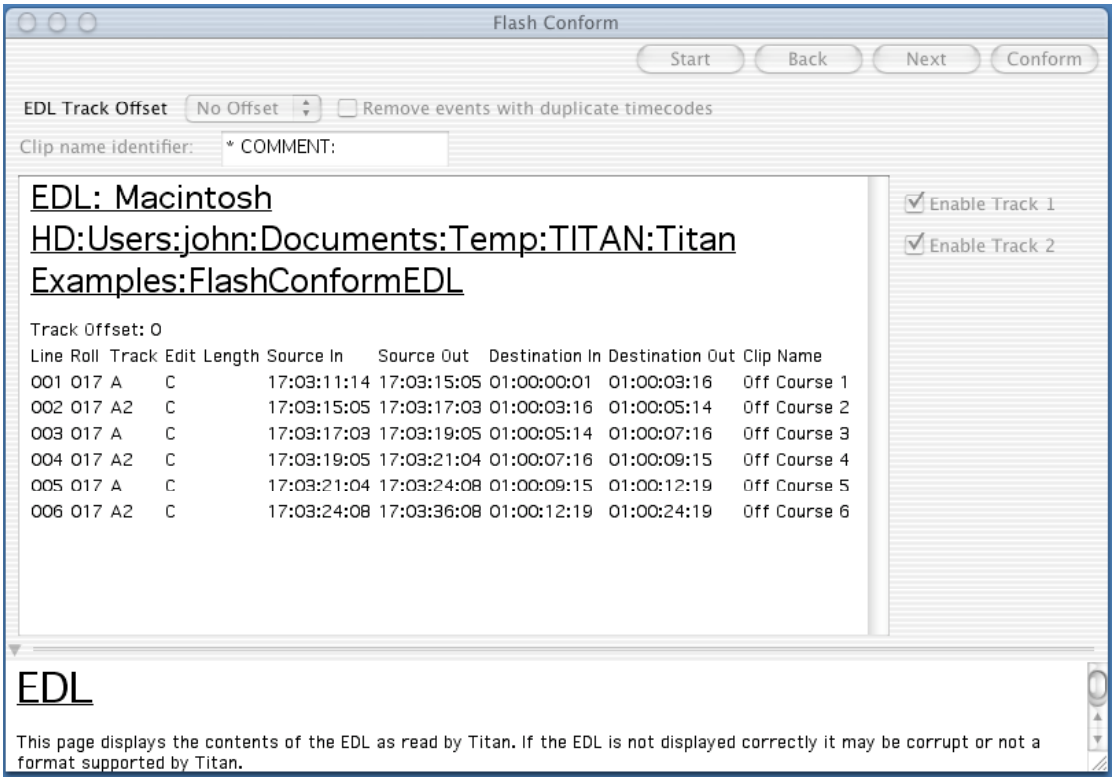
If you are using the example EDL, the Review EDL page will look like this:


Flash Conform
Start
Back
Next
Conform
EDL Track Offset
No Offset
Remove events with duplicate timecodes
Clip name identifier:
FROM CLIP NAME:
EDL: Macintosh HD:Users:john:Documents:Temp:TITAN:Titan Examples:FlashConformEDL
Enable Track 1
Enable Track 2
Track Offset: 0
Line Roll Track Edit Length Source In Source Out Destination In Destination Out Clip Name
001 017 A C 17:03:11:14 17:03:15:05 01:00:00:01 01:00:03:16
002 017 A2 C 17:03:15:05 17:03:17:03 01:00:03:16 01:00:05:14
003 017 A C 17:03:17:03 17:03:19:05 01:00:05:14 01:00:07:16
004 017 A2 C 17:03:19:05 17:03:21:04 01:00:07:16 01:00:09:15
005 017 A C 17:03:21:04 17:03:24:08 01:00:09:15 01:00:12:19
EDL
This page displays the contents of the EDL as read by Titan. If the EDL is not displayed correctly it may be corrupt or not a format supported by Titan.

In the example above, Flash Conform has not correctly loaded the comment field in the EDL, since no clip names are displayed in the EDL display window, in the **Clip Name** column.

⇒ Click in the **Clip name identifier** text box. Type *** COMMENT:** in the text box.

After a few seconds, Flash Conform will read the EDL again. The comment field will now be correctly identified. You may need to use a different Clip name identifier for you own EDLs. In the example the Review EDL page will now look like this:


Flash Conform
Start
Back
Next
Conform
EDL Track Offset
No Offset
Remove events with duplicate timecodes
Clip name identifier:
* COMMENT:
EDL: Macintosh HD:Users:john:Documents:Temp:TITAN:Titan Examples:FlashConformEDL
Enable Track 1
Enable Track 2
Track Offset: 0
Line Roll Track Edit Length Source In Source Out Destination In Destination Out Clip Name
001 017 A C 17:03:11:14 17:03:15:05 01:00:00:01 01:00:03:16 Off Course 1
002 017 A2 C 17:03:15:05 17:03:17:03 01:00:03:16 01:00:05:14 Off Course 2
003 017 A C 17:03:17:03 17:03:19:05 01:00:05:14 01:00:07:16 Off Course 3
004 017 A2 C 17:03:19:05 17:03:21:04 01:00:07:16 01:00:09:15 Off Course 4
005 017 A C 17:03:21:04 17:03:24:08 01:00:09:15 01:00:12:19 Off Course 5
006 017 A2 C 17:03:24:08 17:03:36:08 01:00:12:19 01:00:24:19 Off Course 6
EDL
This page displays the contents of the EDL as read by Titan. If the EDL is not displayed correctly it may be corrupt or not a format supported by Titan.

You can see above that the clip names for each EDL event are displayed in the **Clip Name** column.

For the example, the remaining controls must be set as follows:

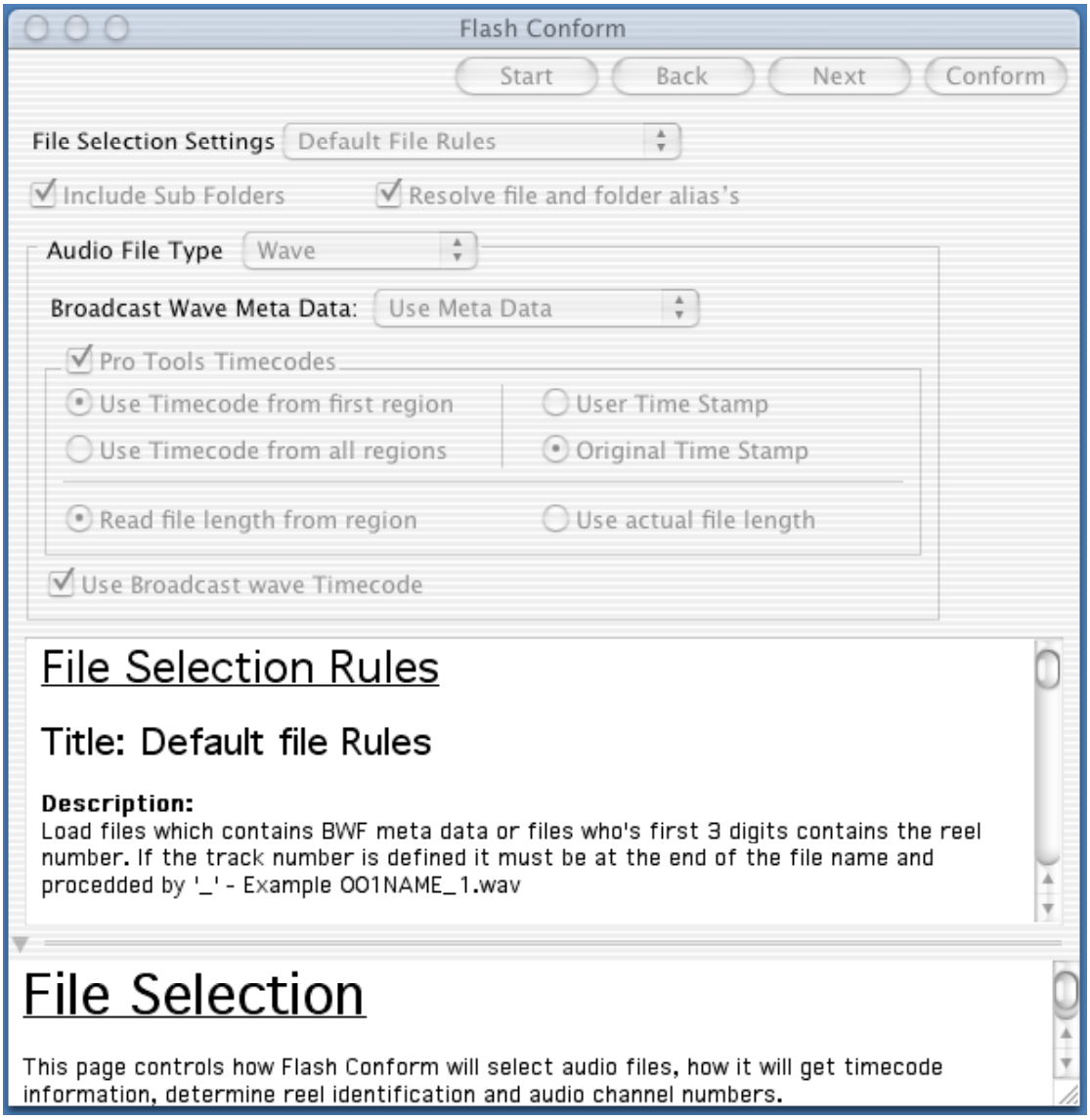
⇒ Click **EDL Track Offset**, and click **No Offset**. Check the **Enable Track 1** check box. Check the **Enable Track 2** check box.

For a description of using these controls with your own EDLs, see the integral help window in the Flash Conform window.

⇒ Click **Next**, to advance to the **File Selection Rules** page of controls.

4. Set the file selection rules for the conform

Flash Conform uses a set of rules, to determine which audio files belong to which reel, and how timecode data is stored in the audio files. These rules are controlled by the **File Selection Rule** page, which can be seen below.


Flash Conform
Start
Back
Next
Conform
File Selection Settings
Default File Rules
Include Sub Folders
Resolve file and folder alias's
Audio File Type
Wave
Broadcast Wave Meta Data:
Use Meta Data
Pro Tools Timecodes
Use Timecode from first region
User Time Stamp
Use Timecode from all regions
Original Time Stamp
Read file length from region
Use actual file length
Use Broadcast wave Timecode
File Selection Rules
Title: Default file Rules
Description:
Load files which contains BWF meta data or files who's first 3 digits contains the reel number. If the track number is defined it must be at the end of the file name and procedded by '_' - Example 001NAME_1.wav
File Selection
This page controls how Flash Conform will select audio files, how it will get timecode information, determine reel identification and audio channel numbers.

The controls on this page will need to be set to work with your particular conform operation. A detailed description of these controls can be found in the integral help window.

For the example EDL, the audio files use a number at the start of the filename that is the same as their reel id. The file selection rule that we use for this situation is Alpha-Numeric Reel ID. To set this:

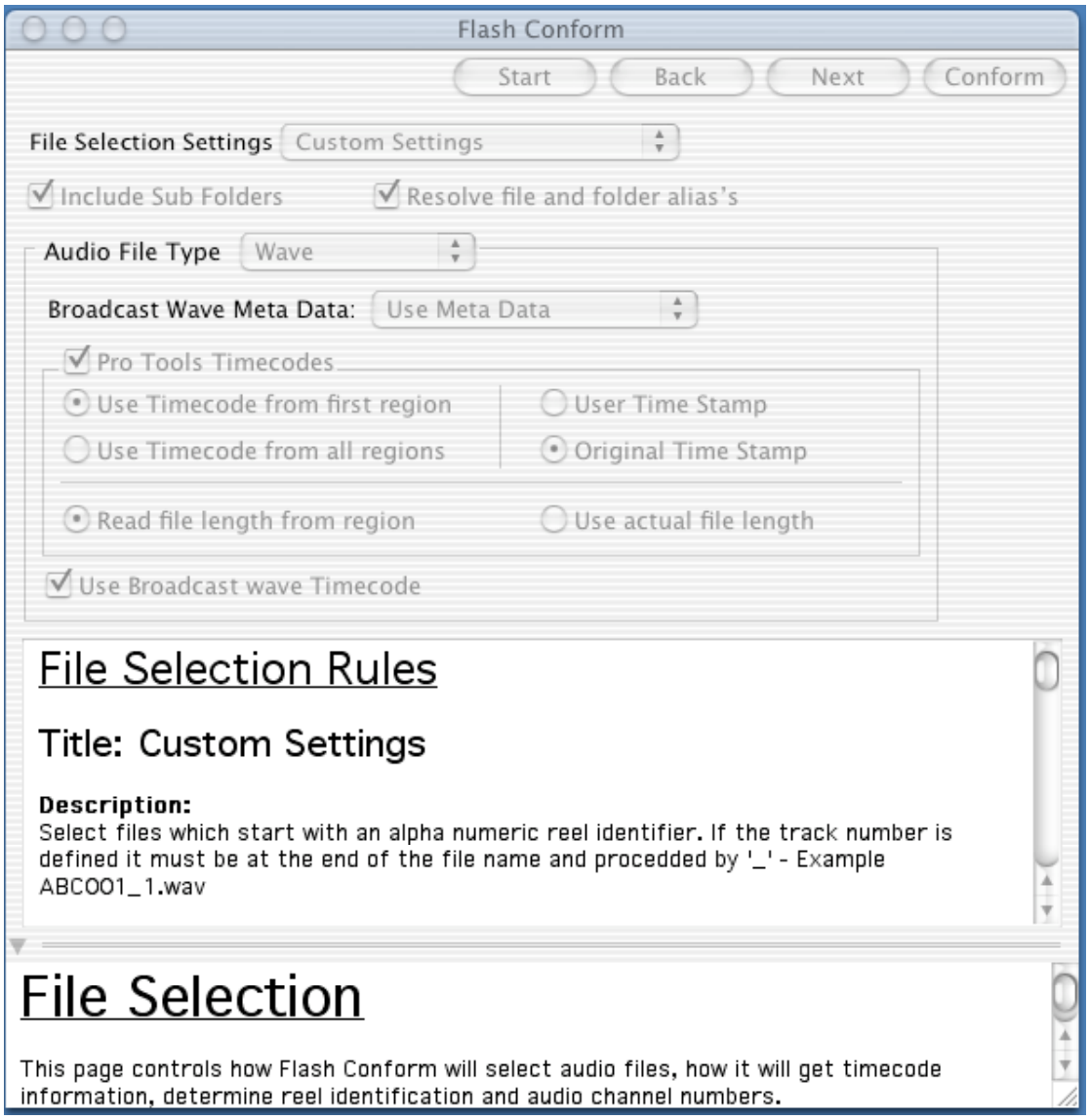
⇒ Click File Selection Settings, and then click Alpha Numeric Reel ID.

When performing your own conform, you may need to select an alternative settings. You may customize the selection rules with the Customize setting. New selection rules can be downloaded from the Synchro Arts website at:

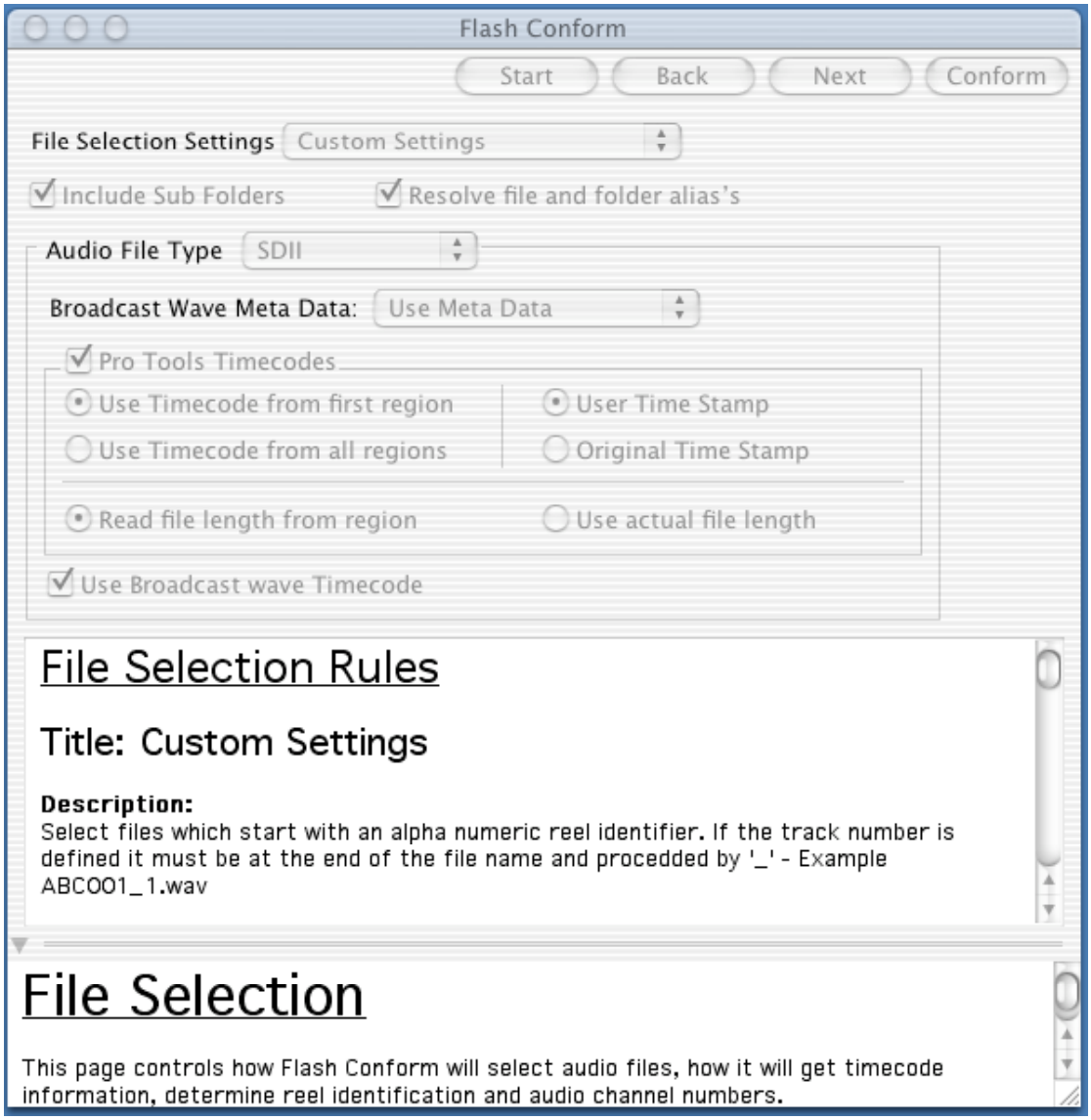
http://www.synchroarts.com/titan3/flashconform.htm

For the tutorial we need to alter the default behaviour of the **Alpha Numeric Reel ID** rules.

⇒ With **Alpha Numeric Reel ID** selected - select **Custom Settings.** This will allow you to customise the rule set.


Flash Conform
Start
Back
Next
Conform
File Selection Settings
Custom Settings
Include Sub Folders
Resolve file and folder alias's
Audio File Type
Wave
Broadcast Wave Meta Data:
Use Meta Data
Pro Tools Timecodes
Use Timecode from first region
Use Timecode from all regions
User Time Stamp
Original Time Stamp
Read file length from region
Use actual file length
Use Broadcast wave Timecode
File Selection Rules
Title: Custom Settings
Description:
Select files which start with an alpha numeric reel identifier. If the track number is defined it must be at the end of the file name and procedded by '_' - Example ABC001_1.wav
File Selection
This page controls how Flash Conform will select audio files, how it will get timecode information, determine reel identification and audio channel numbers.

⇒ Next Select the **Audio File Type** menu and select **SDII.**
⇒ Then select the **User Time Stamp** option.


Flash Conform
Start
Back
Next
Conform
File Selection Settings
Custom Settings
Include Sub Folders
Resolve file and folder alias's
Audio File Type
SDII
Broadcast Wave Meta Data:
Use Meta Data
Pro Tools Timecodes
Use Timecode from first region
User Time Stamp
Use Timecode from all regions
Original Time Stamp
Read file length from region
Use actual file length
Use Broadcast wave Timecode
File Selection Rules
Title: Custom Settings
Description:
Select files which start with an alpha numeric reel identifier. If the track number is defined it must be at the end of the file name and procedded by '_' - Example ABC001_1.wav
File Selection
This page controls how Flash Conform will select audio files, how it will get timecode information, determine reel identification and audio channel numbers.

⇒ When you have selected the File Selection Rules you are using, click **Next** to advance to the **File Source** page of controls.

5. Add the source audio files for the conform

After specifying the file selection rules for the conform, you must choose wish audio files to include in the conform process. For the example we wish to include all audio files in the example folder. To do this:

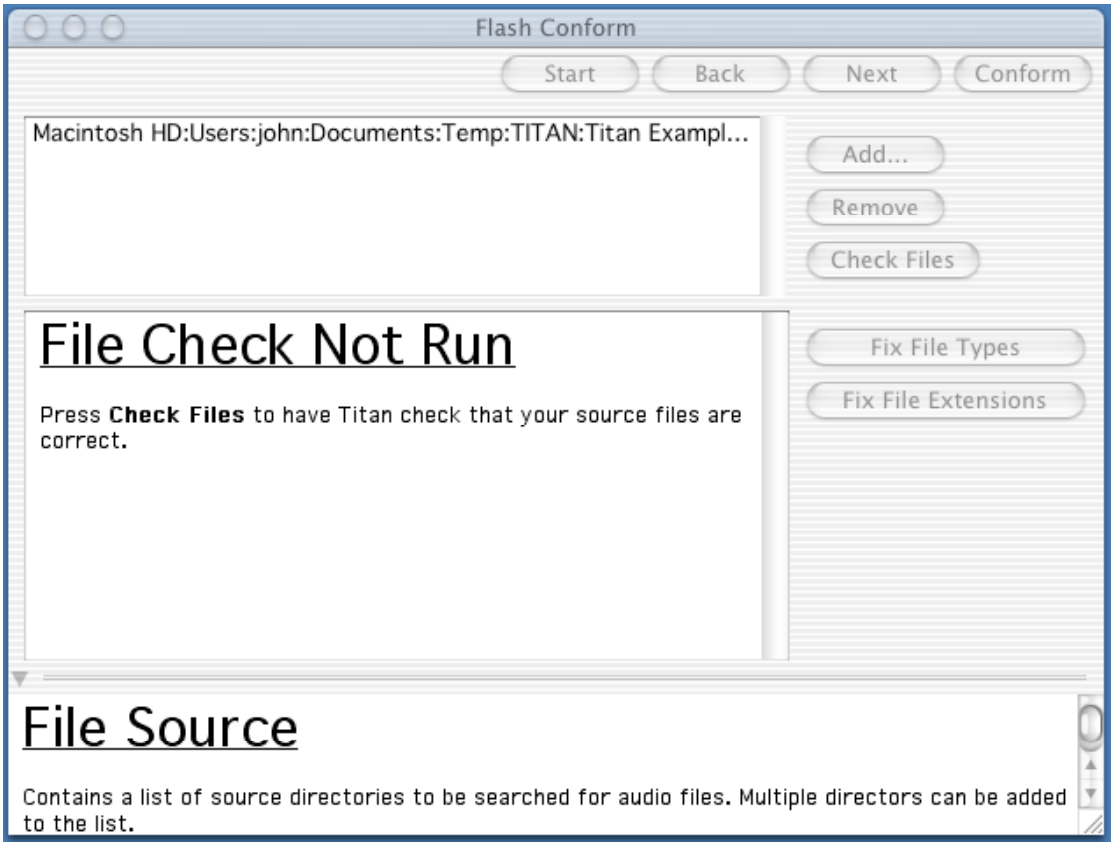
⇒ In the **Flash Conform** window, click **Add**. The Select Source Folder window will appear.

⇒ In the Select Source Folder window, locate the folder containing the audio files you wish to include in the conform. For the example, locate the Titan Examples folder, and then click the folder **Audio**. Now click **Choose**. The Select Source Folder window will now close. The name of the folder you chose will be displayed in the Flash Conform window.

If you wish to add multiple folders, simply click **Add**, and repeat the process outlined above, for each folder you wish to include in the conform.

All audio files in the selected Folder must have the same sampling rate. The first audio file Flash Conform locates will set the sampling rate of the output session. The sampling rate that was used can be found in the Flash Conform Report.

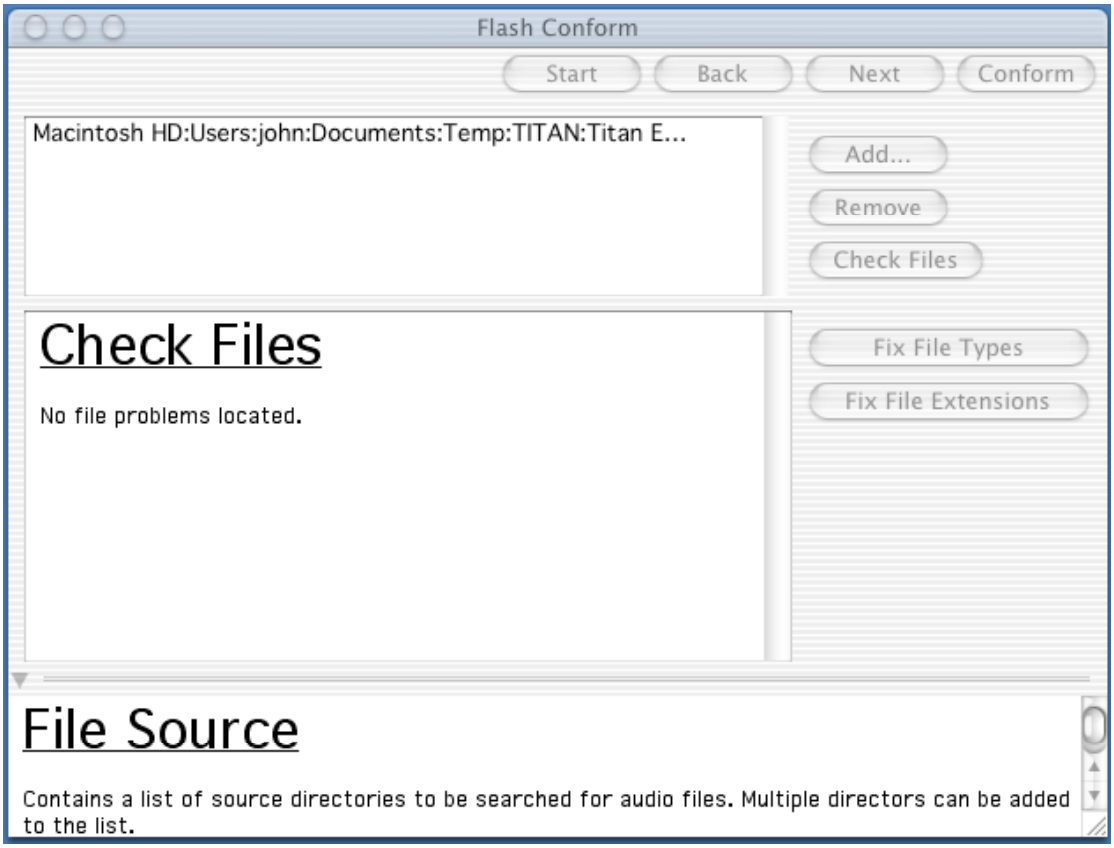
If you are following the example the window will now look like this.



The information window, notifies you if the audio files you have chosen have been checked as being valid for the conform. In the above example the files have not been checked.

⇒ To check the files, click **Check Files**.

If you are following the example, the audio files should contain no errors, and the window will now look like this:



When using Flash Conform for your own conforms, always click Check Files to ensure that a number of known file errors are not present.

If errors are found, then Flash Conform may be able to fix them, by using clicking Fix File Types, or Fix File Extensions. These buttons will only be active if errors are found. For details of these controls read the integral help window.

⇒ Once you have added all folders you are using in the conform, click **Next** to advance to the **Session Format** page.

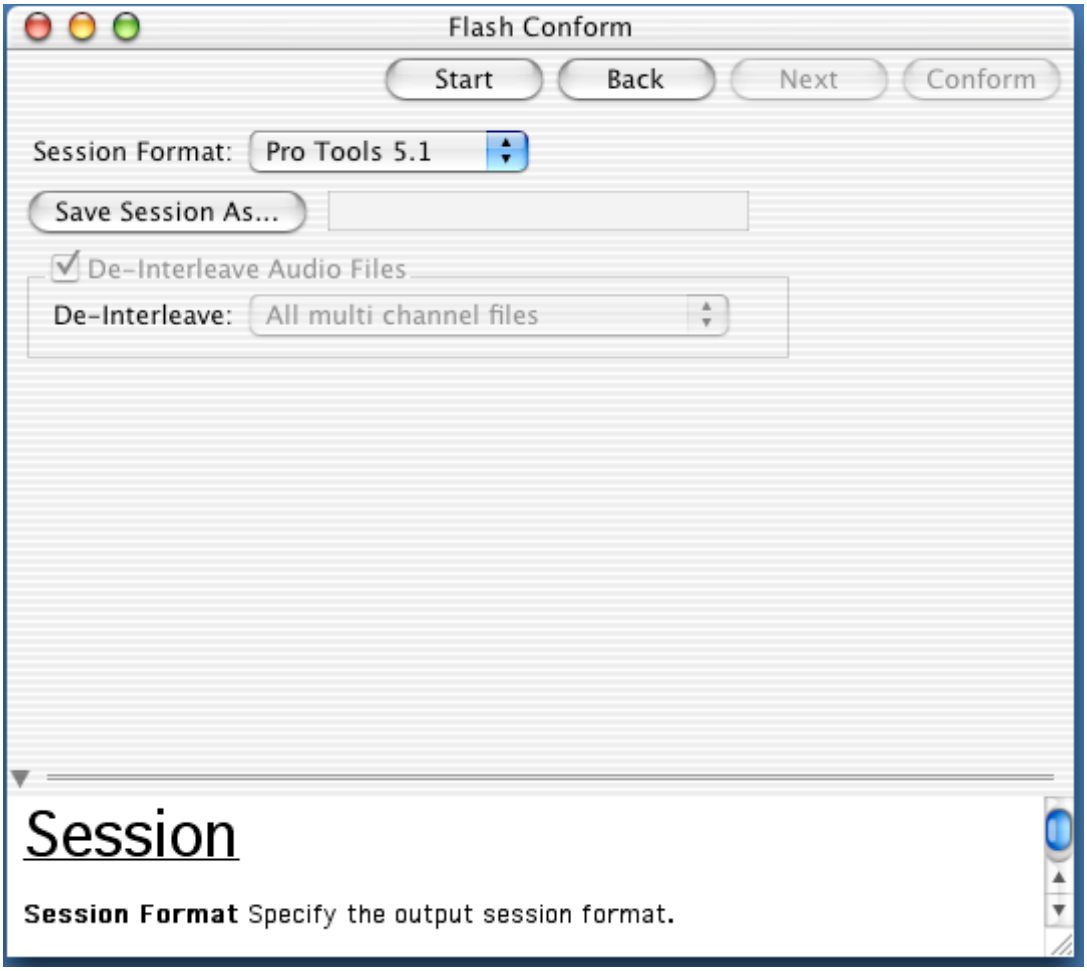
6. Choose output session name and format

After specifying the input audio files for the conform process, you must choose an output session name and format, and also a folder for audio files that may be output from the conform process.

To select the output session format:

⇒ Click the **Session Format** control, and then for our example click **Pro Tools 5.1**, or the session format you are using for your own conform.

The Flash Conform window will look like this:



Now choose an output session name. To do this:

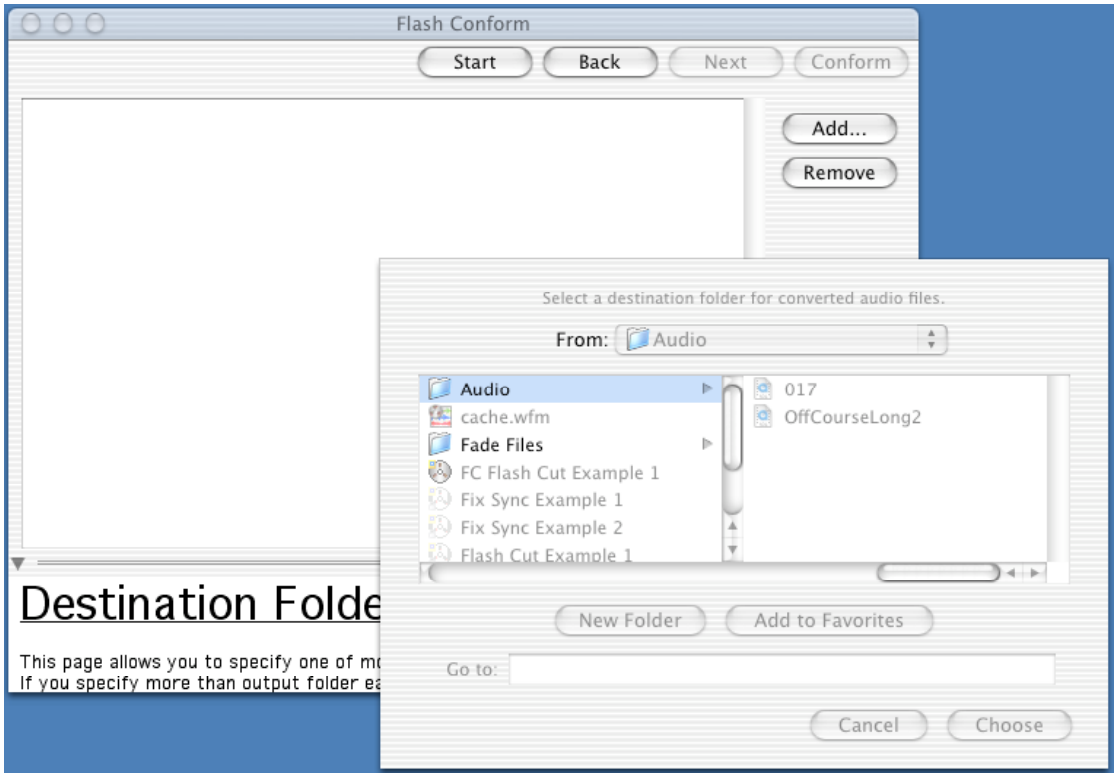
⇒ Select the output session name by clicking **Save Session As…**. The Save Session As window will appear. Type the output session name in the text box and click **Save**. For the example, type FC Flash Conform Example. The Save Session As window will disappear. The output session name will be displayed in the Flash Conform window.

⇒ Once you have chosen the output session name and format, you may advance to the **Destination Folders** page, by clicking **Next**.

7. Destination Folders

If conform has to de-multiplex any audio files it needs to know the destination folder for these files.

⇒ Select **Add…** to select a destination folder.



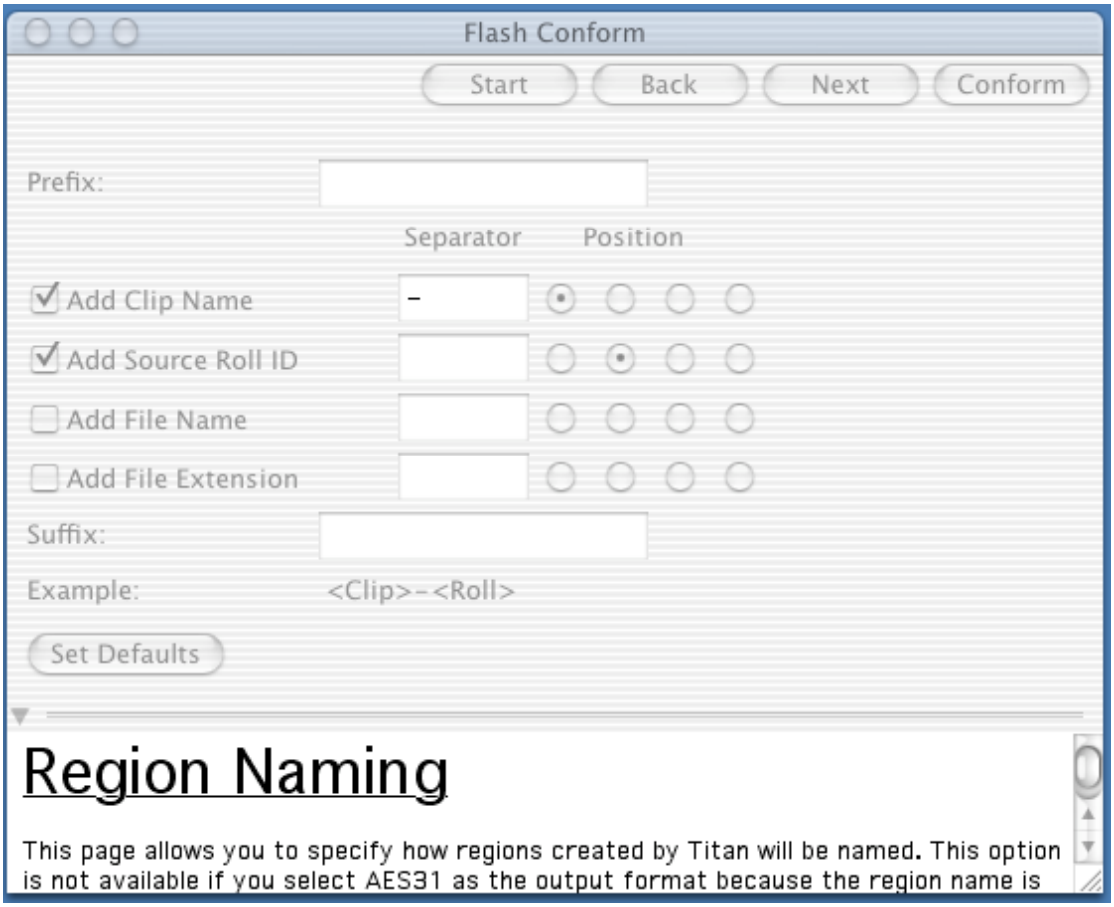
⇒ For the tutorial select the same folder that contains you audio files.

If the **De-multiplex** option is set in the previous page Titan always asks for a destination folder, even if no files will require de-multiplexing. This is because Titan does not check for the present of multiplex files until it actually conform the files.

8. Select Region Naming Options

The region naming page is the last page of controls you must set before starting the conform process. The options affect the names of the regions in the output session.

⇒ If you are following the example, then use the default region naming options. Click **Set Defaults** to do this. The region-naming page will look like this. Notice that the Conform button is now active:



You may wish to select alternative region naming settings for your own conforms. The integral help window explains what available options do in more detail.

When you have selected region naming options, click **Conform**, to start the conform process.

9. Wait for conform to complete, then review the report

While the conform process takes place, a progress bar is displayed. When completed, the Report Page will always be displayed. The report will say if the conform was a success, or if an error was encountered. If an error was found, the detailed information contained in the report can be used to determine the cause of the problem.

The report can be saved by clicking Save Report.

10. Load output session into Pro Tools and check results

The output session can be loaded into Pro Tools.

Trouble Shooting Guide

Fix Sync Problems

Problem: All Regions do not appear to be synchronised correctly to the Work Track.

Possible Reasons:
1) The Max. Search setting has not been set high enough
Fix: Increase the Max. Search value to one which is slightly greater than the maximum sync error expected.

2) The sync errors are beyond the maximum range of Fix Sync.
Fix: Contact Synchro Arts with details.

3) The audio contains too much noise, is very low level, is too high in pitch content or contains a steady level throughout the region.
Fix: The Fix Sync process is, by nature, very material dependant and future releases should increase the rate of success on difficult audio material.

4) The audio region is too short to analyse with the Max. Search time set.
Fix: Try reducing the Max. Search time. A future release may adjust this dynamically.

Problem: Automation Data is not moved with the audio on the Adjust Tracks setting.

Possible Reasons:
1) The current version leaves automation data in place on existing tracks.
Fix: Do not create automation data until after using Fix Sync.

Flash Cutter Problems

Problem: Audio appears at the wrong timecode in the processed Session.

Possible Reasons:
1) The Frame Rate in the EDL does not match the Frame rate of the Pro Tools session.

Fix: Change the Frame Rate in Pro Tools to match the EDL Frame Rate.

Flash Conform Problems

Problem: No audio is conformed or audio is missing.

Possible Reasons:
1) Audio files no not contain the correct time code. Reel name are not being identified. Check the report - it shows how Titan read the EDL and what information was found in the audio files.

Problem: EDL is not displayed correctly in the EDL Review window.

Possible Reasons:
1)Check that you are using CMX3600 EDL's. if the EDL cannot be read by Titan you may have to use another program to convert the EDL to CMX3600.